

## INSIDE TODAY

### WORLD NEWS

## MISSIONARY STATEMENT



American missionary arrested on child kidnapping charges, Laura Silsby, 40, leaves the courtroom in Port-au-Prince, Tuesday Feb. 23, 2010.

*Read more on Page A7*

### SPORTS NEWS

## BEAR FACTS



Jack Nicklaus, left, and Drew Brees smile as they head to the second hole during the Kenny G Gold Pro-Am at the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

*Read more on Page 12*



President Barack Obama is applauded by health care professionals as he speaks about health care reform, Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

*Read more on Page A4*

# Triple bombing kill 32 ahead of Iraqi vote

BEN HUBBARD

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Suicide bombers struck in quick succession Wednesday in a former insurgent stronghold northeast of Baghdad, killing at least 32 people just days before a crucial election that will determine who will govern the country as American forces depart. The blasts in Baqouba — including one by a bomber who rode in an ambulance to a hospital and blew himself up there — were the deadliest in more than a month and illustrated the challenges facing Iraqi forces trying to prove they can secure the country after the full withdrawal of U.S. forces by the end of next year.

*Continued on Page 6*



Security forces inspect the scene of one of three suicide bombings in Baqouba, Iraq, Wednesday, March 3, 2010. A string of three deadly suicide bombings killed 30 people in the former insurgent stronghold of Baqouba on Wednesday, including a blast from a suicide bomber who rode in an ambulance with the wounded before blowing himself up at a hospital, police said.

Associated Press

## Deadly wave

A huge wave hit a cruise ship in the Mediterranean on Wednesday, killing two passengers.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

## Huge wave kills 2 on cruise ship in Mediterranean

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — A 26-foot wave smashed into a cruise ship carrying nearly 2,000 people in the Mediterranean on Wednesday, smashing glass windshields and killing two passengers, according to officials and news reports.

Another six people suffered light injuries, the Greek coast guard said in a statement. The victims were identified as a German and an Italian man.

The ship asked for permission to dock in Barcelona and arrived at the Spanish port shortly after 9 p.m., the Spanish news agency Europa Press said.

There, four ambulances were waiting to take the bodies and the injured to a hospital in the city, the agency said.

No further details on the dead or the injured were immediately available. Spanish reports said the injured included a 62-year-old woman who broke both of her legs.

*Continued on Page 8*

## SECTION B

Local News 1  
Latino 15



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# Facing ethics probes, Rangel drops tax leadership



House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. makes his statement on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

Associated Press

LARRY MARGASAK  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The powerful head of the tax-writing committee in the U.S. House of Representatives announced Wednesday he will temporarily step down as chairman, saying he did not want his ethics controversy to jeopardize November

election prospects for fellow Democrats.

The decision by Rep. Charles Rangel was another jarring setback for President Barack Obama and majority Democrats in Congress, coming at a time when the party is scrambling to save sweeping health care overhaul legislation that has been

pending in Congress for well over a year and still assessing a surging anti-incumbent fervor among the voters.

Democratic incumbents facing tough election races in November do not want to fend off a Republican campaign focusing on Rangel's ethical cloud, especially after the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, had promised to drain the swamp of ethical problems that plagued Republicans when they ran the House.

Republicans had been calling for Rangel to step aside since last year, when the House ethics panel expanded its investigation into his trips, assets and income, use of rent-controlled apartments in New York and his solicitation of contributions for university center to be named after him. After the panel released its findings last Friday on the Caribbean trips, Rangel started losing support among rank-and-file Democrats as well.

Rangel held a news conference on short notice, telling reporters, that "in order to avoid my colleagues having to defend me during their elections, he has asked Pelosi, "to grant me a leave of absence" until the ethics committee completes its work.

Rangel's return is far from assured with the House ethics committee still investigating serious allegations of wrongdoing.

Pelosi issued a statement Wednesday acknowledging Rangel's request for a leave. "I commend Chairman Rangel for his decades of leadership on jobs, health care, and the most significant economic issues of the day," she said.

His departure from the Ways and Means chairmanship raised questions about succession. Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark, the most senior Democrat on committee, will serve as acting chairman.

Rangel, 79, who represents

New York's Harlem district, was first elected to the House in 1970 and is tied for fourth in congressional seniority.

The congressman made only a brief statement, telling reporters, "If you don't mind, I don't take questions." But he did say that had told Pelosi "from the very, very beginning" that he was willing to step aside, at least temporarily.

Rangel, who met privately Tuesday with Pelosi, is accused by the House ethics panel of violating gift rules.

Party members want an untainted leader to be their chief negotiator in deciding the fate of billions of dollars in expiring tax breaks at year's end, including popular income tax deductions for sales and property taxes.

The ethics committee said Rangel violated standards of conduct by accepting 2007 and 2008 trips to Caribbean conferences that were financed by corporations. □



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# Leaders on gay ban study vow objectivity



ABOVE: From left, Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Sen. Roland Burris, D-Ill. and Sen. Kristin Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; BELOW: Former members of the military, from left, Anthony Woods of Arlington, Va., Stacy Vasquez of Denton, Texas, David Hall of Washington, and Todd Belok of Ridgefield, Conn., are seen during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 3, 2010, to discuss an effort to repeal the military's ban on openly gay service members.

**ANNE FLAHERTY**  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The leaders of a new Pentagon study promised Congress on Wednesday an honest assessment on whether allowing gays to serve openly in the military might cause troops to lose their edge in battle. “Military readiness and effectiveness must retain primacy here,” said Gen. Carter Ham, head of U.S. Army Forces Europe and a

co-leader of the study. “That is what you expect of us, that’s what the nation expects of us,” Ham told a House panel. Wednesday’s hearing was the opening salvo in a yearlong debate at the Pentagon and in Congress on whether and how the nation should repeal the 17-year-old law that bans service members from acknowledging they are gay or engaging in homosexual behavior. Democrats praised the

initiative but said they will not wait for the results, which are due Dec. 1. More than a dozen senators introduced legislation on Wednesday that would repeal the law and prohibit discrimination against service members on the basis of sexual orientation.

“They’re ready for it, and we’re ready for it,” said Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken. Rep. Susan Davis, one of

189 co-sponsors of House legislation to repeal the ban, said she is confident the Pentagon review will conclude that changes to the law are necessary.

“I would ask those who oppose repeal to join us on the right side of history,” said Davis, who chairs the House Armed Services personnel subcommittee.

President Barack Obama has vowed to end the policy, but needs Congress’ blessing and faces resistance from some influential military leaders who say a repeal could hurt morale and impact a unit’s effectiveness.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that changes to the policy are probably inevitable and that the military should chart a way forward that minimizes the impact on troops.

Last month, Gates recommended a sweeping internal study to be led by Ham and Pentagon General Legal Counsel Jeh Charles Johnson.

Johnson and Ham said they planned to reach out to solicit opinions.

“We’re asked working group members to set aside their personal opinions regarding repeal or not repeal and to go about their work in an objective comprehensive fashion,” Johnson said.

Johnson said he expects the review will consider all aspects of the military legal code related to “don’t ask, don’t tell,” including rules on sodomy and oral sex.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice prohibits sodomy and oral sex, even among consenting adults and married couples. □

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# Obama makes final push for health care reform



**President Barack Obama speaks about health care reform, Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.**

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Wednesday made what is expected to be his final push to overhaul the U.S. health care system, revising his plans in an attempt to win the support of moderate Democrats.

Obama's latest proposal included some ideas favored by Republicans, though he has little hope of winning over even a single Republican lawmaker. Republicans have called on him to discard his proposals and start working with them on a new one.

But the White House hopes that by including elements of Republican plans, Obama can win over Democratic lawmakers from conservative districts whose re-election hopes in November could be jeopardized by voting for the bill. If he can generate stronger Democratic support, congressional leaders can use parliamentary maneuvers to bypass Republican objections. "I don't see how another year of negotiations would help. Moreover, the insurance companies aren't starting over," Obama said, rejecting Republican calls to begin anew. "For us to start over now could simply lead to delay that could last for another decade or more."

Obama's appeal came several days after he convened a televised bipartisan summit with lawmakers, then released a revised plan that

he said incorporated several Republican suggestions.

At its core, Obama's proposal would extend health care to tens of millions of uninsured Americans, while cracking down on insurance company practices such as denying coverage on the basis of a pre-existing medical condition. The United States is the only major industrialized country without universal health care. The health care legislation that appeared on the cusp of passage late last year, only to be derailed when Republicans won a Massachusetts Senate seat that gave them the ability to stop it.

The president endorsed a plan by Democrats to try to enact the legislation by a simple majority vote — using a Senate procedure that would deny Republicans the right to delaying tactics, known as filibusters, meant to stall legislation. Democrats still hold a majority in the 100-seat Senate, but they are now one seat shy of the 60 needed to stop filibusters.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell that a decision by Democrats to invoke the simple majority rules would be "met with outrage" by voters, and he said Obama was pushing a sweeping bill that the public doesn't want.

"They've had enough of this yearlong effort to get a win for the Democratic Party at any

price to the American people," McConnell said on the Senate floor.

The Democrats' strategy includes several steps. The House would be required to pass the legislation the Senate passed late last year, and then both houses would be called on to enact a companion bill making changes in the first one.

Obama has already made the

basics of his plan clear. He would extend health coverage to about 30 million uninsured Americans, leash the insurance industry by banning practices like denying coverage for the ill, expand drug benefits for the elderly and give lower-income people subsidies to help them afford coverage. It would be paid for by raising taxes on upper-income Americans and culling savings from a

government health care plan for the elderly.

Obama rejected calls for more debate, saying lawmakers need to take action.

"Everything there is to say about health care has been said, and just about everyone has said it," Obama said as murmurs of laughter swept through his receptive audience of invited guests in the White House. □

## Senate rejects SS bonus payment

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**

**Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday rejected a proposal by President Barack Obama to give people on Social Security a \$250 bonus check.

Republicans and Democratic deficit hawks combined to reject the idea by a 50-47 vote. The plan, offered in the Senate by Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., would have added \$14 billion to the out-of-control budget deficit.

The vote came as the Senate debated a \$100 billion-plus measure to extend unemployment assistance, revive a bevy of popular but expired tax breaks, help states with soaring Medicaid costs and prevent doctors from having to absorb big cuts in Medicare payments.

The costly measure follows passage Tuesday of a stopgap \$10 billion measure to fund several of the same programs through the end of the month.

The daunting price tag on the measure guarantees more complications and an even rougher path through the Senate than experienced by the bill passed Tuesday.

The full-year measure blends \$66 billion for unemployment benefits for people who have been out of work longer than 26 weeks with \$29 billion for Medicaid help to state governments and health insurance subsidies for the jobless. There's also \$26 billion for expiring tax breaks such as an income tax deduction for sales and property taxes and a business tax credit for research and development.

The measure closes \$29 billion worth of tax loopholes to help defray its cost, including one enjoyed by paper companies that get a credit from burning a pulp-making byproduct known as "black liquor," as if it were an alternative fuel.

All told, the measure would add \$107 billion to the deficit over the coming decade. Democrats have labeled most of the bill an emergency measure, exempting it from stricter budget

rules enacted just last month.

Also Wednesday, the Senate rejected a procedural maneuver by freshman Sen. George Lemieux, R-Fla., that sought to force the entire bill to be paid for in subsequent legislation so as not to add to the deficit.

"What a commonsense idea to bring to Washington and the United States Congress — that we pay for the programs that we spend," Lemieux said.

But powerful Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus countered that Lemieux's move would actually have killed the measure and every Democrat, along with Maine GOP Sen. Susan Collins voted to keep the measure on track on a 60-37 vote that just barely reached the supermajority threshold needed under Senate rules.

Although the government faces a projected record \$1.6 trillion deficit for the current budget year, many senators have an appetite for more spending. In addition to the Social Security proposal, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., wants \$1.5 billion for "youth activities," including summer jobs.

Sanders said the \$250 Social Security payment was needed to make up for the lack of a cost-of-living adjustment this year for beneficiaries. Disabled people and veterans also would have been eligible for the payments.

Seniors received an identical \$250 bonus last year as part of the economic stimulus bill.

But economists say the payments don't do much to boost the economy since many seniors simply save the money rather than spend it.

The stopgap bill that passed Tuesday had been held up for days by GOP Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky, causing the government to furlough highway workers and allowing some unemployment benefits to expire.

But his move sparked a political tempest that subjected Republicans to withering media coverage and cost the party politically, and Bunning ultimately relented. □



## "FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"



# 'Miracle on the Hudson' pilot "Sullenberger retiring



**Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger**, who safely landed US Airways Flight 1549 in the Hudson River in January 2009, arrives at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, N.C. Wednesday afternoon, March 3, 2010. Accompanied by co-pilot Jeff Skiles, left, who was also his Hudson River wingman, Sullenberger flew his last segment for US Airways to Charlotte from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., then announced his retirement before a gathering of reporters at the airport, a major hub for US Airways.

*Associated Press*

## SAMANTHA BOMKAMP

AP Transportation Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, who was hailed a hero after piloting the US Airways flight that landed on the Hudson River in January of last year, is retiring.

Sullenberger will fly his final flight Wednesday afternoon with his co-pilot during the Hudson landing, First Officer Jeff Skiles. Sullenberger will end his 30-year career when he lands at his home base at Charlotte (North Carolina) Douglas International Airport. He will officially retire at a private ceremony there with fellow pilots and other US Airways employees.

"Thirty years ago last Thursday, I began my airline career. I have been fortunate to have followed my passion for most of my life, working in a profession I dearly love, side by side with thousands of wonderful colleagues, including the man flying my final flight with me, Jeff Skiles," Sullenberger said in a statement.

"Each generation of pilots hopes that they will leave

their profession better off than they found it. In spite of the best efforts of thousands of my colleagues, that is not the case today.

"Though I am retiring, I will continue to serve as the same kind of advocate I have always been — not only for aviation safety, but for the airline piloting profession," "I will work to remind the entire industry — and those who manage and regulate it — that we have a sacred duty to our

passengers to do the very best that we know how to do."

All 150 passengers aboard US Airways flight 1549 survived the emergency river landing in January 2009 after the plane's engines were hit by birds. The plane landed within minutes of taking off from New York's LaGuardia airport, headed for Charlotte.

Since that famous flight last year, Sullenberger has testified before Congress regarding pilot safety, given speeches

about education and written a book, "Highest Duty."

He became a member of US Airways' flight operations safety management team last September.

Sullenberger, 59, joined US Airways' predecessor airline in 1980.

Flight attendant Doreen Welsh, 59, who was on Flight 1549 when it landed in the Hudson, is also retiring. Welsh, 59, joined US Airways' predecessor airline in 1970. □

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An Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) worker carries a ballot box into a school where security forces will cast their votes on Thursday, in Najaf, Iraq, Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Iraqis are due to go to the polls March 7 for the national elections, with early voting by special groups such as security forces, hospital staff, and prisoners taking place March 4.

*Associated Press*

### TRIPLE BOMBING

*Continued from Front Page*

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombings but they bore the hallmark of al-Qaida in Iraq, which has promised to violently disrupt Sunday's parliamentary vote and warned Sunnis not to participate in the balloting. Iraqi authorities vowed not

to let the insurgents derail the democratic process.

"These attacks aim to terrify people from going to polling stations," said Fakhri al-Obaidi, spokesman of the Diyala provincial council in Baqouba. "But I am sure that people will insist on voting." In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell

denounced the bombings but said they would not succeed in disrupting the election, "nor do we anticipate that it will derail our responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq" to 50,000 troops by Sept. 1.

The violence began about 9 a.m. with a suicide car bomb that targeted a local government housing office near an Iraqi army facility, police spokesman Capt. Ghalib al-Karkhi said.

Within minutes, a second suicide car bomb exploded 200 yards down the street near the provincial government headquarters near many police and army personnel.

It was the final bomber, however, who caused the most casualties, by donning a military uniform, pretending to be wounded and riding an ambulance back to the hospital where he blew himself up, al-Karkhi said. Many of the wounded from the first two bombs were killed in the third attack.

Police later safely detonated a fourth car bomb about 220 yards from the hospital in Baqouba, which was once controlled by al-Qaida in Iraq before a series of U.S.-Iraqi offensives led to a drop in violence. Mahmoud Fadil, 50, said he was heading to the electric company's office when the force of the explosion tossed him in the air.

"I saw others covered with blood lying on the ground and some crying because of wounds caused by shrapnel and the huge blast," he said.

Insurgents often carry out multiple bomb attacks to maximize the number of casualties as rescuers and others rush to the scene to help those affected. Authorities arrested four men suspected of involvement in the bombings and clamped a vehicle ban on the city, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Wednesday's bombings were the deadliest since Feb. 1, when a female suicide bomber

blew herself up among Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad, killing 54 people.

The persistent violence has dealt a blow to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's efforts to portray himself and his party as the best chance for stability in the wartorn country.

Deputy Interior Minister Ayden Khalid told reporters later in Baghdad that security forces expect further attacks but will not allow them to interfere with the vote.

Iraqi authorities have vowed to tighten security for the election, including a nationwide vehicle ban, airport closures and the deployment of hundreds of thousands of security forces across the country.

Also Wednesday, a senior official in Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission said the results of Sunday's vote won't be announced quickly because of the time required to collect votes from abroad and to investigate any complaints. □



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## SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF MARCH 4 - MARCH 10

\*matinee: saturday - sunday | late show: friday & saturday

### AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

<b>PG</b>	<b>ALICE IN WONDERLAND</b>				
<b>NEW</b>	daily:	6:00	8:30		
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show:	11:00
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE LOVELY BONES</b>				
	daily:	5:30	8:30		
	matinee:			late show:	11:30
<b>R</b>	<b>EDGE OF DARKNESS</b>				
	daily:	4:30	7:00	9:30	
	matinee:	2:00		late show:	12:00
<b>PG</b>	<b>ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"</b>				
	daily:				
	matinee:	12:55	3:15	late show:	
<b>PG</b>	<b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b>				
	daily:	6:30	9:00		
	matinee:	12:45	3:45	late show:	11:45
<b>R</b>	<b>THE WOLFMAN</b>				
	daily:	6:00	8:45		
	matinee:	12:15	3:00	late show:	11:30
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE FOURTH KIND</b>				
	daily:	4:15	6:45	9:15	
	matinee:	1:30		late show:	11:45

### AT PASEO HERENCIA

<b>R</b>	<b>SHUTTER ISLAND</b>				<b>NEW</b>
	daily:	5:30	8:30		
	matinee:	2:30		late show:	11:30
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>DEAR JOHN</b>				
	daily:	4:00	6:30	9:00	
	matinee:	1:30		late show:	11:30
<b>PG</b>	<b>PERCY JACKSON &amp; THE OLYMPIANS</b>				
	daily:	5:30	8:15		
	matinee:	12:00	2:45	late show:	11:00
<b>PG</b>	<b>EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES</b>				
	daily:	6:00	8:45		
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show:	11:15
<b>R</b>	<b>FROM PARIS WITH LOVE</b>				
	daily:	4:00	6:15	8:30	
	matinee:	1:45		late show:	11:00
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>AVATAR</b>				
	daily:	4:45	8:00		
	matinee:	1:30		late show:	11:15



# Detained U.S. missionary: I'd come back to Haiti

MICHELLE FAUL

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A U.S. Baptist missionary detained on suspicion of child trafficking in Haiti said Wednesday she would be ready to return again to the earthquake-ravaged country to work with children.

Laura Silsby told The Associated Press from her jail cell that she and nanny Charisa Coulter expect to be released soon, but would both readily come back despite their troubles here.

"Oh yes, both of us would come back to Haiti because there is so much need here, especially for the children," Silsby told an AP reporter at the airport-side police station where they are being held.

"We would definitely come back to help them once this misunderstanding or whatever you want to call it is sorted out."

Louis Ricardo Chachoute, a lawyer for the Americans, said he has asked that they be released without bail

and believes it will happen by the end of the week, perhaps as early as Thursday. The decision is up to the judge in the case.

"What I can say is our clients are innocent," Chachoute said. "They only wanted to help."

The Idaho missionaries were detained with eight other Americans on Jan. 29 while trying to take 33 children from Haiti without the proper papers.

Silsby initially said the children were orphaned in the Jan. 12 earthquake that killed a government-estimated 230,000 people. But it was found the children had been given away by still-living parents.

Judge Bernard Saint-Vil could decide on releasing the women at any time. He told AP he is awaiting a recommendation from prosecutors and could order their release even if authorities decide to continue investigating.

Silsby and Coulter denied any suggestion they were trafficking in children, saying that the group



U.S. missionary Laura Silsby, 40, center, points to an area of a bible next to fellow missionary Charisa Coulter, 24, both arrested on child kidnapping charges, as they leave the courthouse in Port-au-Prince, Tuesday, March. 2, 2010.

Associated Press

was arranging an orphanage in the Dominican Republic. Three witnesses were brought in to corroborate that story to Saint-Vil on Tuesday.

The missionary said she wants to go

ahead with setting up that orphanage, taking in both earthquake victims and the children of Haitian migrant sugarcane cutters in the Dominican Republic. □



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U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton shakes hands with Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, center, and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, right, during their meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

**MATTHEW LEE,**  
Associated Press Writer  
BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil rebuffed a U.S. appeal for new sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program, vowing during a visit from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton not to “bow down” to gathering international pressure. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva preempted Clinton even before she could make the case for new United Nations Security Council penalties. Silva is an outspoken opponent of

sanctions, and his country currently sits on the Security Council, which will be asked to approve its toughest-ever penalties on Iran later this year.

“It is not prudent to push Iran against a wall,” Silva told reporters hours before meeting with Clinton. “The prudent thing is to establish negotiations.”

Clinton told a news conference she respects Brazil's position but thinks if there is any possibility of negotiating with Iran, it would happen only after a new round of sanctions.

*Associated Press*

# Brazil rebuffs U.S., says it will go own way on Iran

Iran has accelerated its disputed nuclear program in the face of previous U.N. penalties, but the United States and other supporters say a renewed demonstration of world resolve could finally push Iran to the bargaining table.

“The door is open for negotiations. We never slammed it shut,” Clinton said. “But we don't see anybody, even in the far-off distance, walking toward it.”

The Obama administration took office last year pledging to reach out to Iran and make the case that Tehran had more to lose than gain from pressing ahead with nuclear development that much of the world suspects is aimed at building a bomb.

Yet the administration has done an about-face after a frustrating year that saw nuclear gains by Iran with no sign the country is interested in serious talks with Washington. The two countries have been estranged since the 1979

takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and there is almost no economic or diplomatic contact between them.

Iran does have vast business and other ties with most of the rest of the world, and Clinton said the oil giant is exploiting its relationships to try to avoid new U.N. penalties.

“We see an Iran that runs to Brazil, an Iran that runs to Turkey, an Iran that runs to China, telling different things to different people,” Clinton said angrily.

Standing with her at a press conference in the Brazilian capital, Foreign Minister Celso Amorim was not persuaded.

“We will not simply bow down to an evolving consensus if we do not agree,” Amorim said. “We have to think by ourselves and with our values and principles.”

Silva is scheduled to visit Tehran on May 15, and US officials who participated in Clinton's meetings on Wednesday suggested they would like to see the Security Council vote on sanctions before then. If that happens, the officials said, Silva might be able to serve as an informal envoy who could urge the

Iranians to negotiate despite new penalties.

Silva, who hosted Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Brazil last year, said he would have a “frank” conversation with Ahmadinejad about Iran's nuclear program.

“I want for Iran the same thing I want for Brazil: to use the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,” he said. “If Iran agrees with that, Iran will have the support of Brazil.”

The U.S. officials said that despite clear differences at the moment, the Brazilians assured Clinton their current position was not “etched in stone.”

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private diplomatic exchange.

Iran already is under three sets of U.N. Security Council sanctions for refusing to stop uranium enrichment — a potential pathway to nuclear weapons — and other activities, generating concerns that it seeks to build a bomb. It insists it is enriching only to make nuclear fuel for an envisaged reactor network. □

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## CRUISE SHIP

*Continued from Front Page*

All television news crews were asked to leave the port late Wednesday, and it did not appear that passengers were being allowed to leave the ship.

It was unclear late Wednesday exactly where the incident took place. The Greek coast guard said the accident occurred near the French Mediterranean port of Marseille as the Cypriot-owned Louis Majesty was sailing from Barcelona to the Italian city of Genoa with 1,350 passengers and 580 crew members on board.

But the French newspaper Le Figaro and Spanish news reports said the accident happened off Capo de Begur, off the coast of Spain about 80 miles northeast of Barcelona.

Europa Press said the ship had set sail from the southeastern Spanish Mediterranean port of Cartagena earlier Wednesday, intending to stop in Barcelona but decided to continue on its journey to Genoa because of bad weather near Barcelona.

Cmdr. Bernard Celier of the French maritime authority in the southwestern city of Toulon, on the Mediterranean coast, said there had been “no signs of the least problem with the Louis Majesty.” But he noted there had been winds of over 60 miles per hour in the area.

Louis Cruise Lines spokesman Michael Maratheftis said the ship was hit by three “abnormally high” waves up to 26 feet high that broke glass windshields in the forward section.

Louis Cruise Lines' Web site says the ship is 680 feet long, and features 10 passenger decks and 732 staterooms along with various bars, pools, restaurants and shops. □





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## Chavez denies links with Spain's ETA, FARC rebels

CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez lashed out at Spain's prime minister Wednesday for asking Venezuela to respond to a Spanish judge's accusation that his government collaborated with Basque separatists and Colombian rebels. Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Monday demanded an explanation from Venezuela after Judge Eloy Velasco announced that an investigation turned up evidence Chavez's government facilitated collaboration between the Basque group ETA and Colombia's leftist rebels — and the two groups planned to assassinate Colombia's president.

The following day, Spain's foreign minister said that he had spoken with Chavez and Venezuela's foreign minister and that both denied the allegations but promised an investigation.

But on Wednesday Chavez warned that diplomatic relations between the two countries could be hurt

if Spanish officials insist on seeking answers from Venezuela.

"We don't have anything to explain," Chavez said during a televised speech. "Relations will depend on the Spanish government's attitude."

Chavez denied his socialist government maintains ties with ETA or the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which are classified as terrorist organizations by the European Union and the United States.

"This is a government that does not, and will not, support terrorist groups," Chavez said.

ETA has been waging a violent campaign since the late 1960s to create an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain and southwestern France. The FARC has been battling since 1964 to topple successive Colombian governments and establish a Marxist-style state.

Velasco indicted six members of ETA, most of them exiled in Latin America, and seven members of the FARC for a variety of alleged crimes, including plotting to kill former Colombian President Andres Pastrana and

Colombia's current president, Alvaro Uribe.

Velasco said the investigation that began in 2008 turned up evidence of "Venezuelan governmental cooperation" in the collaboration between the two groups. ETA members have received training or taught in FARC rebel camps, and FARC members traveled to Spain to try to kill Pastrana and Uribe, with help from ETA, Velasco wrote.

Velasco identified suspected ETA member Arturo Cubillas Fontan as a key figure in links between ETA and the FARC. The man lives in Venezuela, has held a job in the Chavez government and may still have one, the judge wrote.

The probe is based largely on e-mails that were in a computer used by a FARC leader named Raul Reyes, who died in a Colombian military raid on a FARC camp in Ecuador in March 2008.

Chavez noted one of his predecessors as president, Carlos Andres Perez, and former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez signed agreements in 1989 allowing several Basque separatists to take up residence in Venezuela after



In this photo released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez holds up a vaccine for tuberculosis as he visits a medical center in Caracas, Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Chavez lashed out at Spain's prime minister Wednesday for asking Venezuela to respond to a Spanish court's accusations that his government collaborated with Basque separatist militants and Colombian rebels.

Associated Press

peace talks between Spain's government and ETA representatives broke down. "These people came here and they became Venezuelans," Chavez said.

Chavez did not address the judge's allegation that Cubillas Fontan has worked for his administration.

Spanish Attorney Daniel Portero, who closely follows ETA's activities, told The Associated Press that he expects Spain's judiciary to run into difficult obstacles

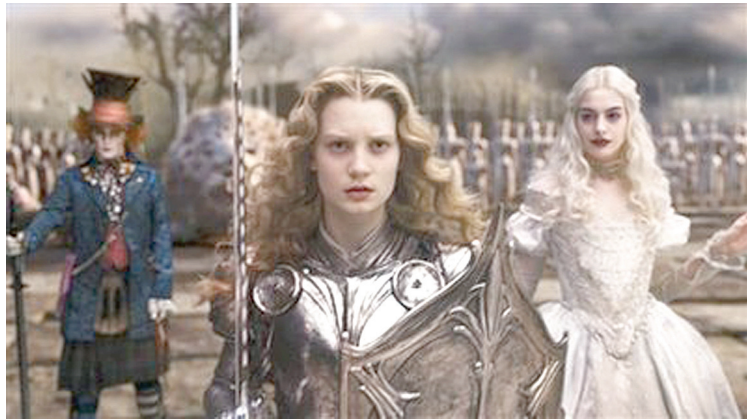
as it attempts to bring exiled members of the Basque separatist group to justice.

"It's very complicated," Portero said, noting Spain's government doesn't want to spoil warm relations with Venezuela.

Portero leads a nonprofit organization, Dignity and Justice, that has been involved in roughly 50 criminal cases against ETA members. The lawyer's father, a Spanish prosecutor, was killed by ETA in 2000. □



# Review: 'Alice' through a drearier looking glass



In this film publicity image released by Disney, Johnny Depp, left, Mia Wasikowska, center, and Anne Hathaway are shown in a scene from the film, 'Alice in Wonderland.'

(AP Photo/Disney)

By JAKE COYLE,  
AP Entertainment Writer

In Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland," Alice has grown — not by "drink me" potion or "eat me" cake — into a 19-year-old girl.

Working from Linda Woolverton's very Hollywood screenplay adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic tale, Burton shifts the story from a child Alice to a near-adult Alice, viewing her journey through a drearier, more dangerous looking-glass.

We glimpse the prim, Victorian child of Carroll's tale in the film's opening as she's awakens from what sounds like her trip to Wonderland. Her father tells her that her deranged dreams do indeed mean she's bonkers, but he assures, "All the best people are."

It's a neat line and it's at the heart of Burton's 3-D version of Carroll's beloved book, which also draws heavily from its sequel, "Through the Looking-Glass." It was shot in 2-D, but transferred to 3-D afterward, and its effects are more distracting than spectacular.

One does, though, get a bit queasy hearing of such classics "updated" as if they're local TV newscasts. The film quickly fast forwards 13 years and Alice (played by the startlingly promising Mia Wasikowska, who previously impressed watchers of HBO's "In Treatment"), is lured back to Wonderland by the familiar,

punctually paranoid rabbit (voiced by Michael Sheen). She flees a white and pastel-colored reality (where she is being arranged with great orchestration to marry a man she disdains) and falls down the hole, which sits at the base of a tree that could very well be the same one from Burton's "Sleepy Hollow."

Alice doesn't remember her last trip to Wonderland. This time, the plot is similar, but slightly different. It's Underland, not Wonderland. The tea party is more faded and ramshackle. Alice is beset by questions that she's "the wrong Alice."

This Alice is far from Carroll's.

Where the Alice of the 1865 book is confused and essentially on a journey of self-discovery, Burton's Alice is more sure of herself. The exchange with the smoking blue caterpillar (voiced by Alan Rickman) is less "Who-o-o are you-o-o?" and more about Alice proving herself — to the caterpillar and everyone else.

"This is my dream. I make the path," she says.

Burton's "Alice" reflects today's times more than Carroll's era. There's triumph over the "dominion over living things" practiced by the cruel, bigheaded Red Queen (a brilliantly thin-skinned Helena Bonham Carter), and there's Alice's girl power.

By the end, she confidently returns to begin, of all things, a business endeavor

in China.

The take-home lesson of Carroll's tale is something quite different. It's not fuel for upright adulthood, but "the simple and loving heart of her childhood."

Burton's film is not lacking whimsy. Much of its design is wonderfully imaginative — surely the biggest draw of the movie. Credit also goes to the visual effects of Ken Ralston and the costumes of Colleen Atwood. There are elegant moments — the overhead shot of Alice shrinking into the billows of her dress, or the great, big slobbering tongue of the beastly Bandersnatch. The incredibly tweaky March Hare (voiced by Paul Whitehouse) is also a joy.

But Burton has beefed up the original story so that it feels less personal and more like the many action films about young, maturing heroes who must slay a giant villain. Danny Elfman's score keeps the mood dark.

The Cheshire Cat (voiced by Stephen Fry) — whose handling is normally tantamount — passes curiously without energy, like a bow made out of courtesy.

And then there's the Mad Hatter, a role so befitting Johnny Depp (working with Burton for the seventh time) that it might seem too obvious for him. There is a trace of the been-there-done-that to Depp's somewhat rootless performance, but wishing for him to cut back on playing mad clowns would be like telling Fred Astaire to quit all that dancing. □



In this film publicity image released by Summit Entertainment, Jeremy Renner, left, and Anthony Mackie are shown in a scene from, 'The Hurt Locker.'

(AP Photo/Summit Entertainment)

## Bomb disposal expert: 'Hurt Locker' based on him

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER,  
Associated Press Writer

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — A bomb disposal expert who served in the Iraq war plans to sue the makers of "The Hurt Locker," claiming the film's lead character is based on him and that they cheated him out of "financial participation in the film," his attorney said. Attorney Geoffrey Fieger said at a news conference Wednesday that he plans to file the multimillion-dollar lawsuit in New Jersey court on behalf of Master Sgt. Jeffrey Sarver.

Sarver claims the film's screenwriter, Mark Boal, was embedded in Sarver's unit and that the information he gathered was used in the film, Fieger said in a news release. The film is nominated for nine Academy Awards, including best original screenplay.

Sarver says the main character, Will James, is based on him and that James' call signal, "Blaster One," was his during his tours of duty, Fieger said. Sarver also says he coined the phrase "The Hurt Locker." Fieger said Boal's embedded reporting led to an article in Playboy magazine about Sarver, and that story later was adapted by Boal for "The Hurt Locker" screenplay.

The movie's U.S. distributor, Summit Entertainment, issued a statement saying it hopes "for a quick resolution to the claims made by Master Sgt. Sarver."

"The film is a story about heroes depicting a fictional account of what brave men and women do on the battlefield," the company said. "We have no doubt that Master Sgt. Sarver served his country with honor and commitment risking his life for a greater good, but we distributed the film based on a fictional screenplay written by Mark Boal."

It's been a rough start to the week for "The Hurt Locker." On Monday, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences penalized one of the film's producers because of e-mails he sent urging academy members to vote for his movie. □

## Burt Reynolds released from hospital after bypass

JUPITER, Fla. — Burt Reynolds' manager says the actor has been released from a Florida hospital after a planned heart bypass operation. Erik Kritzer said in a statement Wednesday that Reynolds had been scheduled for the operation for over a month.

FILE - In this Jan. 27, 2008 file photo, Burt Reynolds is shown in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian, file)

Kritzer said Reynolds went into the hospital on Monday and was discharged Tuesday. Kritzer says the star of "Smokey and the Bandit," "Deliverance" and "Boogie Nights" told him that he has "a great motor with brand new pipes" and is "feeling great." Last year, Reynolds spent time in a Florida rehab center after treatment for painkiller abuse following back surgery. Reynolds is 74. □



## BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



Stewart Stogel of Mt. Vernon, N.Y. shows what he says was a modified gas pedal in his gold 2009 Toyota Camry Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Stogel was preparing to take his Camry back to a Toyota dealership today after, he states, previous repairs to fix an acceleration problem, including work on the gas pedal, have not solved the issue with his car.

(AP Photo/Craig Ruttle)

## Gov't still hearing complaints about fixed Toyotas

By KEN THOMAS  
and TOM KRISHER,  
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Some Toyota owners say they're still having trouble with unintended acceleration after their recalled cars were repaired, and the Transportation Department said Wednesday it is looking into their complaints.

The complaints raise new questions about whether Toyota's remedy will solve the problem. David Strickland, the administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said in a statement the agency is reaching out to consumers about the complaints "to get to the bottom of the problem and to make sure Toyota is doing everything possible to make its vehicles safe."

"If Toyota owners are still experiencing sudden acceleration incidents after taking their cars to the dealership, we want to know about it," Strickland said.

The government has received a limited number of acceleration reports from the Toyota owners whose floor mats or gas pedals have been fixed. Toyota and the government are investigating potential electrical problems as part of the Japanese automaker's recall of more than 8 million vehicles worldwide.

NHTSA has linked 52 deaths to crashes allegedly caused by Toyota's acceleration problems. The company has blamed mechanical causes or drivers pressing the wrong pedal and repaired about 1 million vehicles, but has said it is looking into electronics as a potential cause.

Toyota did not immediately comment on the new complaints. Stewart Stogel, 49, of Mount Vernon, N.Y., said his 2009 Camry accelerated to about 15 mph on a street near his home on Saturday, five days after a dealership trimmed the gas pedal and installed new brake override software as part of the floor mat recall. The car didn't stop for several seconds even though he pressed on the brakes. Stogel said he barely avoided going down an embankment and hitting a wall.

"At first the brakes didn't engage at all," said Stogel, a freelance journalist. "Just as I approached Terrace Avenue, the wheels were able to get some traction, and all of the sudden the engine did disengage." □

## Stocks end mixed as Fed points to slow recovery

By STEPHEN BERNARD  
and TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Early gains in stocks unraveled Wednesday on concern that the economy will see a slow recovery.

Stocks ended mixed after the Federal Reserve said that economic activity has improved in nine of its 12 districts but that the gains are "modest."

The report dampened the enthusiasm that followed an upbeat report on services industries and more takeover news.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 9 points. For a second day, the Dow erased its losses for 2010 before surrendering its advance by the close. The slowdown came after three straight days of gains.

The early gains followed more indications of a recovery in the economy. But the Fed's report in the afternoon raised concerns that the rebound might continue at a slower pace.

Major stock indexes stand at their highest levels since mid-January, when the Standard & Poor's 500 index began a 9.2 percent pullback on concerns that the market was getting too far ahead of the still-struggling economy.

Stocks got an early boost from a report that the services industries grew at the fastest rate in two years last month. Growth in services industries is seen as crucial for a rebound. The Institute for Supply Management's services index for February rose to 53 from 50.5 in January. Economists had forecast that the index would hit 51.

More corporate dealmaking also helped boost stocks for much of trading, as



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, February 18, 2010.

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

occurred earlier in the week. Acquisitions signal that businesses are confident in the economy and see some companies as undervalued. In the latest deal, private equity firm Elliott Associates offered to buy the 91.5 percent of software maker Novell Inc. that it doesn't already own.

Separately, a report on the labor market came in as expected. Payroll company ADP said employers cut 20,000 jobs last month.

The ADP report is seen an early indicator of the government's closely watched monthly employment report, though there are often wide variations. The Labor Department is expected to report on Friday that the unemployment rate edged up to 9.8 percent last month and that employers cut 50,000 jobs. The struggling labor market is still one of the biggest concerns for investors.

Tom Samuels, manager of the Palantir Fund in Houston, said he isn't seeing enough of an improvement in economic numbers to justify confidence in the recovery.

"We're coasting along from

one day to the next and from one week to the next but we're really not getting any sense that things are being structurally fixed," Samuels said. His fund bets certain stocks will rise while others will fall.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow fell 9.22, or 0.1 percent, to 10,396.76. It had risen nearly 64 points.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.48, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,118.79. The Nasdaq composite index slipped 0.11, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,280.68.

Bond prices slipped, pushing yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.63 percent from 3.61 percent late Tuesday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies. Gold rose.

Crude oil rose \$1.19 to \$80.87 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Recent dealmaking has raised hopes that businesses will boost spending. Insurer American International Group agreed to sell its important Asian life insurance business to Britain's Prudential for \$35.5 billion. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

# Nicklaus thinks Woods will play Masters

**TIM REYNOLDS**

**AP Sports Writer**

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Jack Nicklaus thinks Tiger Woods will play in next month's Masters.

Nicklaus said Wednesday that "it would surprise me" if Woods did not return to competitive golf in time for the Masters, a tournament the embattled world No. 1 has won four times in his career. "I suspect he'll play something before Augusta," Nicklaus said behind the 18th green at PGA National, where the Honda Classic opens on Thursday. "Your guess is as good as mine. I'd be very surprised if he doesn't play something before Augusta."

Nicklaus has been reluctant to comment much about Woods since the saga involving revelations of infidelity began late last year, saying more



From left, Drew Brees, Dan Marino, Jack Nicklaus and Kenny G pose for photographers before teeing off during the Kenny G Gold Pro-Am at the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

than once that someone else's private life isn't any of his business. He reiterated that belief again Wednesday after finishing his Pro-Am round at the South Florida course he redesigned.

A person with knowledge of Woods' schedule told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Woods returned to his home near Orlando, Florida over the weekend after a week of family counseling and resumed practicing for the first time in nearly four months.

Like many, Nicklaus seemed to take that as a sign that Woods could be back sooner than later. The Masters begins April 8.

"It would surprise me if he didn't," Nicklaus said. "I can't imagine in 100 years he's going to miss this."

*Associated Press*

*Continued on Page 14*



This March 18, 2009, file photo shows Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber during a news conference in Vancouver.

*Associated Press*

**ROB HARRIS**

**AP Sports Writer**

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber is confident the start of the season will not be affected by a strike, while insisting Tuesday that there won't be a quick-fix deal with the players.

The league's first collective

## Garber: No players' deal just to avoid strike

bargaining agreement expired Thursday after the sides twice extended the five-year deal, which originally was to have run out Jan. 31.

The MLS Players Union failed to match league management's no-lockout pledge with a no-strike offer, leaving the start of the season on March 25 in doubt.

"We will not lock them out, and we are confident they will not go on strike," Garber told The Associated Press at the SoccerEx convention. "We will not make any decisions just to avoid a work stoppage. We've got to make decisions that will ensure the long-term financial success of the MLS, and I'm sure we will not make any decisions to prove a point."

"I don't think any of our players want to go on strike, and we are taking their issues very

seriously. The expectations are that the season will start on time, and the expectation is that will be reach agreement with our players."

The Philadelphia Union plays at Seattle in the MLS opener on March 25 and Garber acknowledges that talks could go on until then.

"It's conceivable, but my expectation is not to be negotiating an agreement an hour before kickoff," Garber said. "I would describe these as big-league problems. Years ago we had nothing to fight about, so we didn't have labor issues."

"Now that the league is growing and there is a bit more at stake, the players want to see improvement in their salaries and their working conditions. And we need to understand, we need to listen and take their issues into consideration." □

## Armstrong focusing on TT in Tour of Murcia

**PAUL LOGOTHETIS**

**AP Sports Writer**

SAN PEDRO DEL PINATAR, Spain (AP) — Lance Armstrong is looking to improve his time trial performance in the Tour of Murcia as part of his Tour de France preparations.

The American rider said the five-day race along the southeastern Mediterranean coast, starting Wednesday, will boost his hopes of winning an eighth Tour de France.

"Considering we haven't raced since January, it's important. It's definitely important," the Team RadioShack rider said.

On Tuesday, team boss Johan Bruyneel said he believed the 38-year-old Armstrong was looking better than when he returned in 2009 after a 3½-year retirement.

But the Texan isn't so sure his physical condition has improved.

"Maybe it's similar. It's a little different too, because last year we had the benefit of a hard Tour of California which this year we didn't have," said Armstrong, who hasn't raced since January's Tour Down Under in Australia.

Armstrong said he has been focusing on getting his body position right for Saturday's 22-kilometer (13.7-mile) time trial.

"I've tried to work on the positioning and on the training aspects," he said. "Last year, I didn't train very much on the time trial bike, which was my mistake."

*Continued on Page 15*



# Netherlands beats U.S. 2-1 in World Cup warmup

By **BRUCE MUTSVAIRO**

**Associated Press Writer**

AMSTERDAM — DaMarcus Beasley may have boosted his World Cup chances. Jonathan Bornstein and Robbie Findlay did nothing to help theirs. And Stuart Holden joined the long U.S. injured list.

The United States fell flat in Europe once again, losing to the third-ranked Netherlands 2-1 Wednesday night in the Americans' last match before coach Bob Bradley picks his World Cup roster.

"We had some moments in the first half that were OK, but I don't think we put enough pressure on them," said U.S. midfielder Landon Donovan, who hardly touched the ball.

"It took us too long in the second half before we made some real plays."

Dirk Kuyt converted a penalty kick in the 40th minute after Bornstein pulled on Wesley Sneijder's arm in the penalty area. Kuyt sent his kick to the right of goalkeeper Tim Howard, who dived the other way.

"We lost our concentration and it was a very bad time to give up a penalty," Bradley said.

Klaas-Jan Huntelaar made it 2-0 in the 73rd minute with a shot that deflected off Bornstein's chest and left the already committed Howard with no chance to stop it.

U.S. captain Carlos Bocanegra scored in the

88th minute, getting his 12th goal in 77 appearances by beating goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg to the top of the 6-yard box to head in Beasley's 35-yard free kick.

"They were all standing there, and they looked kind of confused, so I tried to take it as quickly as I could," Beasley said.

Beasley had a chance to tie it in the 90th, but his free kick from just outside the penalty area was easily grabbed by Stekelenburg at the far post.

"Especially as DaMarcus got into the flow of the game more, he was able to make some good runs forward," said Bradley, leading the team on his 52nd birthday. "You



Netherlands' Klaas Jan Huntelaar celebrates after scoring during a friendly soccer match between United States and Netherlands in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

*Associated Press*

# U.S. beats Germany 3-2 to capture Algarve Cup

**DIRK HINRICHS**

**Associated Press Writer**

FARO, Portugal (AP) — The United States beat Germany 3-2 on Wednesday to capture the women's Algarve Cup for the seventh time.

Germany goalkeeper Nadine Angerer fumbled the ball in the 70th minute and Lauren Cheney tapped it in for the winner.

U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said the team did "a fantastic job" after winning all three of its group games to reach the 12-nation tournament final, and then beat Germany on a muddy pitch.

"We tried out different things in the group games then we put all the best bits together and it worked," Sundhage said.

The Americans, appearing in their eighth straight Algarve final, were dominant in the first half, taking the lead through two goals in five minutes by Carli Lloyd and Abby Wambach.

Lloyd's low drive from outside the area was



Lauren Cheney, right, of the US, evades Germany's Sonja Fuss during their Algarve Cup final soccer match Wednesday, March 3 2010, at the Algarve Stadium outside Faro, southern Portugal. The US defeated Germany 3-2.

*Associated Press*

deflected into the net in the 18th minute, then Wambach headed in her 104th international goal after a cross from Heather O'Reilly.

Two-time world champion Germany, looking for its second Algarve title, pulled one back through Inka Grings just before halftime when she netted from a tight angle after beating Hope Solo.

With 15 minutes left, Grings scored her second goal of

the match, poking the ball beneath the outstretched American goalkeeper from close range.

Germany, which scored 16 goals without reply in its three group games before the final, was stronger in the second half but the sodden pitch foiled efforts by the world's two top-ranked women's teams.

Sweden took third place in the tournament with a 2-0 win over China. □

started to see his mobility and a little bit of his quickness. He had the confidence of being a threat and put defenders on their heels. Those are good things and, hopefully, they can be built upon."

Rejoining the national team for the first time since playing poorly in last June's Confederations Cup, Beasley entered in the 34th minute after Holden limped off with a bruised shin sustained from a hard challenge by Nigel de Jong. Holden, taken for X-rays, joined Clint Dempsey, Oguchi Onyewu, Ricardo Clark, Benny Feilhaber, Steve Cherundolo and Charlie Davies on the injured list.

Maurice Edu, Beasley's Glasgow Rangers, teammate, replaced Jose Torres at the start of the second half, Edu's first international appearance knee surgery last June.

Findlay was paired up front with Jozy Altidore at the start of the match, held exactly 100 days before the U.S. opener. Findlay was replaced in the 62nd minute by Alejandro Bedoya, and Eddie Johnson entered in the 76th for Donovan, playing a day shy of his 28th birthday.

Bradley now must deliberate over the 23-man roster he'll announce ahead of exhibitions against the Czech Republic (May 25 at East Hartford, Conn.) and Turkey (May 29 at

Philadelphia). The Americans then head to South Africa, where they may have a June 5 exhibition against Australia before playing England on June 12 in their World Cup opener. They complete the first round against Slovenia and Algeria.

"We have a little more time where we're sizing up form and assessing injuries, but certainly there is a nucleus of guys," he said. "There are players who have played big roles throughout qualifying and players who continue to be in the picture for us. There are always going to be tough decisions. As a staff we're committed to seeing as many games as we can, and we have a lot of work to do to make sure we can make all the decisions that give us the best chance."

The 18th-ranked U.S. has lost its last five matches in Europe and is 4-19-3 on soccer's most powerful continent since April 1998, with three wins over Poland and one over Switzerland. The Dutch are 4-0 against the Americans, outscoring them 7-1.

"Certainly it was a good test for us, and I think overall the team played well," Bradley said. "The collective effort was pretty solid. There were moments where it needed to be sharper, quicker and better, and we still need to raise the bar." □



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Tiger Woods pauses during a news conference Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

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### NICKLAUS - WOODS

Continued from Page 12

None of you guys do either. But I don't know. I don't know. I've been very noncommittal about anything as it's not my business. But as it relates to him playing golf, my guess is as a golfer he's going to want to try to play Augusta if he's got his other things in order."

Earlier this year, Nicklaus said 2010 would be "a big year" for Woods if he wanted to get closer to Nicklaus' record of 18 major championships. Three of this year's majors will be on courses where Woods has been dominant before, Augusta National, Pebble Beach and St. Andrews.

Of Woods' 14 majors, half have come on those three courses. Woods has never missed a Masters or a U.S. Open since 1995.

Nicklaus is going back to the Masters, a tournament he won six times, as an honorary starter this year. He agreed to take on the role last year, and will join Arnold Palmer for the opening shot of the tournament. In time, he expects Gary Player to join them.

The honorary start is something Nicklaus never saw as a player, and he spent several minutes Wednesday talking about that after finishing

the round he played with Dan Marino, Drew Brees and saxophonist Kenny G. (For what it's worth, Nicklaus said he broke 80, after closing birdie-birdie.)

Then the questions turned to Woods.

"I didn't think I was going to have anything else," Nicklaus said.

Woods was photographed hitting balls at Isleworth on Feb. 18. One day later, he ended nearly three months of silence by speaking to a small group of associates, a statement that got worldwide attention.

"I do plan to return to golf one day, I just don't know when that day will be," Woods said on Feb. 19. "I don't rule out that it will be this year."

Nicklaus was asked if Woods' presence would make the Champions Dinner, a pre-Masters tradition, different than normal.

The only man with more major championships than Woods didn't hesitate to answer.

"No. It's the Champions Dinner," Nicklaus said. "His personal life is his personal life. As a golfer, he's a sensational golfer. He's a great athlete. He'll figure out his own problems. But as a golfer, he'll come back and get his game in shape and play. That's what he does." □

## Manning recovering from neck surgery

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning has spent 12 seasons being a pain in the neck of NFL opponents. Now the four-time league MVP is trying to alleviate the pain in his own neck.

The Indianapolis Colts announced Wednesday that Manning had surgery in Chicago to fix a pinched nerve, a procedure that is not expected to interrupt Manning's offseason workouts or his availability for next season.

"This condition has existed intermittently for the past four years, but at no time did it interfere with his training, practice or playing regimen," the Colts said. "While it never has affected Peyton's activity on or off the field, the Colts' medical staff, after post-playoff examination, thought it best to resolve the situation now."

The Colts said Manning spent

Tuesday night in the hospital and was released Wednesday.

"All medical personnel involved believe the issue has been resolved," the team said. "Peyton fully expects to participate in the Colts' offseason program this spring."

Manning has been a model of stability throughout his NFL career.

His streak of 210 consecutive starts, including the playoffs, is second all-time among NFL quarterbacks behind only Brett Favre.

With Manning in charge, the Colts have made a league-high eight straight playoff appearances, reached the Super Bowl twice, winning it all in 2006, and set an NFL record with seven straight 12-win seasons.

Indy also set league records for most consecutive wins (23) and most wins in a decade (115) last season.

But it is the second time in three years Manning has

needed offseason surgery.

In July 2008, Manning had surgery twice on his left knee because of an infected bursa sac. The injury caused Manning to miss all of training camp. He later acknowledged losing 10 pounds during his recuperation and that he struggled with his balance and stepping into throws until midseason that year.

Manning's contract expires after the 2010 season and Colts owner Jim Irsay wants to extend the deal, calling it his top offseason priority. Irsay has said he is prepared to make Manning the highest-paid quarterback in the league, but negotiations are not expected to kick into high gear until after the free-agent market opens Friday.

Manning won his record fourth MVP in 2009 but his late interception, returned for a touchdown by Saints' cornerback Tracy Porter, sealed the Colts' Super Bowl loss last month. □



## NBA Roundup

# Wade, Heat escape to beat Warriors 110-106

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade had 35 points and 12 assists as the Miami Heat snapped a four-game slide by digging deep late to beat the undermanned Golden State Warriors 110-106 on Tuesday. Quentin Richardson scored 15, including two big 3-pointers in the final minutes, for the Heat. Michael Beasley also had 15 points, while Jermaine O'Neal and Carlos Arroyo each added 14 for Miami, which moved a half-game ahead of Charlotte in the race for the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference. Anthony Morrow scored 24 points, C.J. Watson had 20 and Stephen Curry added 18 for Golden State.

## Celtics 105, Pistons 100

At Auburn Hill, Michigan,

Nate Robinson scored 14 points in 16 minutes and Rajon Rondo added 15 points and 11 assists as Boston beat Detroit. The Celtics, playing for the first time since a humiliating home loss to the NBA-worst New Jersey Nets on Saturday, got 18 points from Ray Allen. Jonas Jerebko scored 16 points for Detroit, which lost its fourth straight.

## Lakers 122, Pacers 99

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 24 points, hitting 14 of 15 free throws, as Los Angeles pulled away with a dominating third-quarter run.

Andrew Bynum added 16 points and Pau Gasol had 14 points and 16 rebounds for the defending NBA champions, who fell behind early before

improving to 14-0 against the Pacers at Staples Center.

Troy Murphy had 17 points and 13 rebounds, Dahntay Jones scored 16 points, Josh McRoberts had 15 and Earl Watson finished with 10 assists for the Pacers. They dropped to 7-24 on the road and have lost eight of their last 10 overall.

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 39 points and 10 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook added 30 points and 13 assists as Oklahoma City beat Sacramento to complete a perfect three-game homestand.

Rookie Tyreke Evans led Sacramento with 27 points. Carl Landry added 17 points, and Beno Udrih and Francisco



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) goes up for a shot against Golden State Warriors forward Chris Hunter (31) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in Miami.

Associated Press

## ARMSTRONG

Continued from Page 12

(It) requires a lot of specific training, which I didn't do.

"We tweaked the position a little bit. We also worked on the bike, which has continued to evolve and the helmet has evolved."

Armstrong says he is more relaxed and feels less pressure as cycling is no longer his No. 1 priority. He wouldn't predict how he'd fare in the time trial, saying "the most important thing is to ride as hard as I can and run a smart race, a time trial that's well tempo-ed."

RadioShack is one of 16 teams taking part in the five-day race, which includes other Tour hopefuls like Bradley Wiggins of Team Sky and Denis Menchov of Rabobank. There are no Italian teams involved but race director Francisco Guzman denied reports that organizers had banned them due to ongoing problems with Alejandro Valverde, a Murcia native who cannot compete in Italy due to an ongoing doping case.

"I made a mistake in the press conference when I said that we preferred not to have Italian teams of a low level because of everything that



RadioShack's Lance Armstrong of the U.S. is seen before the first stage of the Vuelta a Murcia cycling tour in San Pedro de Pinatar, Murcia, Spain Tuesday, March 3, 2010.

Associated Press

has happened with Valverde," Guzman said. "But they were never denied, they just could not make it due to scheduling conflicts."

Wednesday's opening leg was a 103-mile ride around the coastal town of San Pedro del Pinatar, which Garmin-Transitions rider Robert Hunter won in a time of 4 hours, 15 minutes, 40 seconds.

Armstrong was 46th with the same time. □

Garcia scored 13 apiece. The Kings played without reserve Andres Nocioni, who was suspended after he pleaded no contest to a drunken driving charge.

Jeff Green had 15 points and Nenad Krstic finished with 14

points and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City.

In other NBA games it was, Boston 105, Detroit 100; Miami 110, Golden State 106; Oklahoma City 113, Sacramento 107; and L.A. Lakers 122, Indiana 99. □



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## NHL Roundup

# Fedotenko leads Penguins past Sabres 3-2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ruslan Fedotenko had a goal and an assist and Sidney Crosby — in his first game since winning the Olympics for Canada — set up Sergei Gonchar's 200th career goal to lead the Pittsburgh Penguins past the Buffalo Sabres 3-2 on Tuesday.

Crosby, playing two days after beating United States goalie Ryan Miller for the game-winning overtime goal for Canada in Vancouver.

Sabres coach Lindy Ruff chose to start backup goalie Patrick Lalime and rested Miller for the game.

The pro-Olympic buzz created by the memorable Canada-U.S. game was evidenced by the standing ovations given Miller and Crosby during pregame introductions.

## Kings 5, Stars 1

At Dallas, Alexander Frolov had a goal and two assists, and Jonathan Quick stopped 31 shots as Los Angeles downed Dallas.

Quick allowed only a power-play goal and improved to 11-1 in his last 12 games, setting a Kings record with his 36th win of the season.

Marty Turco had 17 saves in his 500th game for the Stars.

## Rangers 4, Senators 1

At Ottawa, Ryan Callahan had two goals as the New York Rangers scored three times within 2:02 late in the second period of a victory over Ottawa.

Callahan, a member of the U.S. Olympic team that won the silver medal, scored 22 seconds into the second to tie it at 2. He added his second of the game during New York's three-goal outburst late in the middle period, which chased Ottawa's Brian Elliott from the net.

Henrik Lundqvist made 24 saves for New York, which has won three in a row.

Milan Michalek scored his 21st for Ottawa, which entered the break in first place in the Northeast Division.

## Canadiens 4, Bruins 1

At Boston, Glen Metropolit tied the game early in the third period, and Maxim Lapierre



Pittsburgh Penguins' Ruslan Fedotenko, bottom, of Ukraine, is greeted by teammate Tyler Kennedy after scoring a goal against the Buffalo Sabres in the third period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Pittsburgh won 3-2.

scored the go-ahead goal for Montreal as the Canadiens scored four times in the final period to beat Boston.

Mathieu Darche had a goal and an assist for Montreal, scoring to make it 3-1 with 2:30 left. Carey Price stopped 23 shots for the Canadiens, who had lost three of four before the Olympic break.

Tuukka Rask made 28 saves for Boston, which had won four straight before the Olympics.

## Islanders 5, Blackhawks 3

At Uniondale, New York, Blake Comeau had his first career hat trick and sparked a four-goal, second-period rally to lift the New York Islanders over Chicago.

Comeau, Jon Sim and Richard Park scored three goals in a 4:39 stretch in the second, helping the Islanders win for the just the third time in 12 games.

U.S. Olympian Patrick Kane had a goal and two assists. Brian Campbell and Dustin Byfuglien also scored, but the Blackhawks lost for the first time in five games.

Dwayne Roloson made 41

saves in his first win since Jan. 21.

## Thrashers 4, Panthers 2

At Atlanta, Rich Peverley scored and added an assist to reach 100 career points, and Johan Hedberg made 34 saves as Atlanta defeated Florida.

Colby Armstrong, Todd White and Pavel Kubina also scored for Atlanta, which returned from the Olympic break just outside a playoff spot in the NHL's Eastern Conference.

Stephen Weiss scored for Florida and David Booth, who missed 45 games with a concussion, had his first goal since Oct. 24 and had an assist. Backup goaltender Scott Clemmensen made his first start time since Dec. 27 and made 35 saves.

## Canucks 4, Blue Jackets 3, OT

At Columbus, Ohio, defenseman Christian Ehrhoff scored 1:33 into overtime as Vancouver rallied to beat Columbus.

Kyle Wellwood scored the tying goal, his eighth, with 5:19 left in regulation.

Alexandre Burrows and Pavol

Demitra also found the net for Vancouver. Andrew Raycroft finished with 27 saves, filling in for Roberto Luongo, who won an Olympic gold medal with the Canadian team.

Andrew Murray, Antoine Vermette and Derek Dorsett scored for Columbus.

## Hurricanes 5, Maple Leafs 1

At Toronto, Chad LaRose had a goal and two assists, and Justin Peters stopped 32 shots as Carolina beat Toronto.

Tuomo Ruutu, Brandon Sutter, Jussi Jokinen and Sergei Samsonov also scored for the Hurricanes, and Joni Pitkanen had two assists.

LaRose returned to the lineup after missing the previous seven games before the break due to injury, and Peters was making just his third NHL start.

## Flyers 7, Lightning 2

At Tampa, Florida, Mike Richards had a goal and three assists as Philadelphia used a five-goal third period to beat Tampa Bay for its fifth straight win.

Simon Gagne scored two power-play goals, Claude Giroux had a man-advantage

goal, Jeff Carter contributed a short-handed goal and James Van Riemsdyk added an even-strength goal in the third.

Dan Carcillo also scored for the Flyers.

Steven Stamkos had two goals to set a Tampa Bay record by extending his points streak to 14 games.

## Predators 4, Oilers 3

At Nashville, Tennessee, Jason Arnott scored the tiebreaking goal 5:02 into the third period to lift Nashville over Edmonton.

Colin Wilson, Denis Grebeshkov and Shea Weber also scored for Nashville.

Mike Comrie, Gilbert Brule, and Marc Pouliot scored for Edmonton.

## Blues 5, Coyotes 2

At Glendale, Arizona, Andy McDonald scored his team-leading 20th goal and T.J. Oshie added a goal and an assist to help St. Louis beat Phoenix for their fourth straight win.

David Backes had a goal and an assist, and Jay McClement also scored for the Blues.

Joel Perrault scored his first goal and Matthew Lombardi also had a goal for the Coyotes.

## Devils 4, Sharks 3

At San Jose, California, Ilya Kovalchuk scored a power-play goal against Olympic teammate Evgeni Nabokov to cap New Jersey win over San Jose.

Dainius Zubrus and Mark Fraser scored goals 35 seconds apart earlier in the second period against Nabokov, who played his first game since allowing six goals in less than two periods in Russia's 7-3 loss to Canada in the quarterfinals of the Olympics.

**In other NHL games it was, Montreal 4, Boston 1; N.Y. Islanders 5, Chicago 3; Atlanta 4, Florida 2; Vancouver 4, Columbus 3, OT; Carolina 5, Toronto 1; N.Y. Rangers 4, Ottawa 1; Pittsburgh 3, Buffalo 2; Philadelphia 7, Tampa Bay 2; Nashville 4, Edmonton 3; Los Angeles 5, Dallas 1; St. Louis 5, Phoenix 2; and New Jersey 4, San Jose 3.** □

Associated Press





On Top Of The News

Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com)

Thursday, March 4, 2010

*Let's Talk Foundation hosting important workshop this weekend in Cas di Cultura*

# Recognizing behavior signals of child sexual abuse



ORANJESTAD—How can anyone recognize signals of behavior that are indicative that a child is or has been sexually molested. It is a question many have, particularly with growing awareness in Aruba of sexual abuse against children. For the 'Let's Talk' Foundation, it is clear that many children or youngsters who display difficult behavior are also dealing with psychological problems that could include sexual molestation or abuse. The foundation is drawing that conclusion based on the talks conducted with children during the bootcamp sessions, organized in the past to address problems that some youths here are facing and creating. Some of the statements of the children led the foundation to establish that it is crucial to start paying more attention to this serious issue and therefore is organizing a workshop this weekend, to provide participants ample

information and tips on how to recognize the behavior signals that could be indicative of sexual abuse. Another objective is to permit participants learn what to do when there is a suspicion of sexual abuse committed to a child, and how to approach a family with this. In Aruba, most families do not report sexual abuse of their children and prefer to keep the issue hidden, as they are afraid of the child being stigmatized. Lately, a mother and a teacher made news when they publicly denounced cases. The mother is currently collecting signatures in order to urge the government to introduce mandatory sentences in child sexual abuse cases. Experts agree that by not treating a child who is or was once a victim of sexual abuse, he or she may grow up with major psychological and/or even mental problems. Therefore, the workshop will also address the role of mental



health care plays in the diagnostic and therapy for sexually abused children, as well as for the perpetrators. Teachers and parents will learn during the sessions what legal steps they can take when they suspect a case of child sexual abuse and what are the methods of intervention. Head of the Youth and Morals unit of the Aruba Police Eric Lake, who has over 20 years of experience dealing with child sexual abuse cases in Aruba will be one of the facilitators. Child Psychiatrist Dr. Rita Enahoro-Zecher, M.D, who has over 10 years of experience dealing with cases like this, will elaborate on the importance of mental care, while Psychotherapist Jeffrey

di Carlo, PhD will elaborate on his field of expertise, which is psychological assessments, during which colors are used to objectively test and diagnose emotional, physiological and personal disturbances. A representative of Buro SOSTENEMI will be the last facilitator. The public organization provides counseling to victims of abuse and assists victims during their course of

harmonization. The workshop will take place in Cas di Cultura, on Friday March 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration opens at 6 p.m at the Cas di Cultura and the fee is 85 florins per person, which includes meals and beverages for both days. These pictures show supporters collecting signatures to support a new law regarding Sexual Predators. □





Westin Aruba Resort Hosts Aruba's Sixth Annual Wine, Food and Art Festival - June 3-5

## Three Day Festival Includes Art Exhibitions, Wine Tastings, Renowned Chefs and Continuous Entertainment

The Westin Aruba Resort will host its Sixth Annual Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival from Thursday, June 3 – Saturday, June 5, 2010. This three-day festival will include live musical entertainment, art exhibitions, exceptionally elegant cuisine offered by renowned chefs, local and

international liquor purveyors and wineries represented by six different countries. In addition, Aruba's artist community will present the fourth annual exhibition, curated by Jan van Straaten of the Westin Aruba Art Gallery. The Daniel Aguirre Jazz Band will provide the musical

entertainment. "The Westin Aruba Resort is delighted to host Aruba's Wine, Food & Art Festival for the sixth year in a row," said Richard Roy, General Manager, The Westin Resort Aruba. "It is an honor to be a part of this cultural event which celebrates local artwork, delectable cuisine,

island music and premium international wines and liquors." During the final day of the festival, guests can delight their taste buds by sampling a sophisticated five-course menu created by the invited celebrity chefs. The meal will pair perfectly with Moët & Chandon and Dom

Pérignon champagnes.

Additional information on the Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival is as follows:

**Thursday, June 3, 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.:**

Wine & Food Tasting & Art Exhibition Best chef competition. A special dinner will be served in Pago Pago by Aruba's top chefs. Each chef will prepare a signature course and pair it with a special wine selection. An award will be given at the end of the evening to the chef presenting the "People Choice" dish. Tickets are available at The Westin Aruba Resort concierge desk during the week for \$85 per person.

**Friday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.:**

Wine & Food Tasting & Art Exhibition This all you care to drink and eat event is hosted by Chef Matt Boland and the Westin Aruba Resort Culinary Team. Aruba's artist community will present the fourth annual exhibition, curated by Jan van Straaten of the Westin Aruba Art Gallery. Guests are encouraged to sample more than 60 varieties of wine by the glass from the USA, Italy, France, Australia, Chile and Argentina, in collaboration with the island's liquor purveyors. The Daniel Aguirre Jazz Band will provide the entertainment throughout the event. General admission tickets are sold for \$35 per person at the door.

**Saturday, June 5, 7:00 p.m. – Midnight:**

Capturing the Champagne Sparkle The gala offers guests an exquisite five-course menu created by invited celebrity chefs, which will be paired with Moët & Chandon and Dom Pérignon champagnes. An art and wine auction will follow at the Coffee Lounge with Grand Marnier Liquor and Hennessy Cognacs.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 1-877-822-2222 or visit [www.westin.com/aruba](http://www.westin.com/aruba)



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# Catching dinner... "From the pier to your plate"



ORANJESTAD - The brothers Steward and Jonathan Johnson from New Jersey were walking down the pier at the down town marina and walked into the fishing professionals of Driftwood Fishing Charters. The men passionately shared their best fishing stories over a couple of laughs and jokes and it didn't take long for all of them to get on board to take off for an exciting deep sea fishing adventure.

While cruising the blue waters around Aruba they didn't have to wait long for their first catch. The first of six giant Wahoo's was pulled aboard after a little struggle and they all knew that it would be the first of many to catch. At the end of the day, after having an exciting fishing adventure, they proudly counted their catch with a huge smile: six Wahoo's! After posing on camera, they went back to their hotel and invited their spouses for dinner at Driftwood Restaurant. Of course they knew what was on the menu; their freshly caught Wahoo's!

"It was absolutely the highlight



of our trip down to Aruba. The fishing was great and dinner was even better. Next year we are going to break this record. We might catch eight next time," Steward Johnson said with a smile from ear to

ear. The staff at Driftwood Fishing Charters and Driftwood restaurant will be welcoming them for sure. The Johnson's have now experienced what Driftwood has been telling all along... At Driftwood they

serve the fish from the pier to your plate! It won't get better than that! More pictures of the fishing adventure of the family Johnson and others can be seen on [www.driftwood.aruba.com](http://www.driftwood.aruba.com). □

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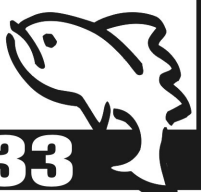
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# BES laws in Dutch Parliament Thursday

~ Small, objecting minority overruled ~



THE HAGUE--The handling of the first package of laws for the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba in the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber will go ahead on Thursday as planned, Parliament's Permanent Committee for Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ decided on Tuesday. A majority of the parties present at Tuesday's meeting gave the go-ahead, overruling the small minority that opposed the handling of the seven BES laws on Thursday. The objections by the Party for Freedom PVV and Socialist Party (SP) were put aside, and NAAZ Chairman Willibrord van Beek decided to follow the wishes of the majority that wanted to go ahead with the handling. No definite decision was made Tuesday as to whether to handle the Kingdom Consensus laws next. Three parties SP, PVV and the liberal democratic VVD declared the Kingdom Consensus laws "controversial" and objected

to the handling of these laws in the near future.

Van Beek decided to leave the choice of whether to handle the Kingdom Consensus laws or declare them controversial up to the Second Chamber. Van Beek said he would send a report containing the positions of the parties to Second Chamber Chairwoman Gerdi Verbeet, so Parliament could decide on the fate of these laws in a plenary session next week.

The discussion Tuesday centred on how to interpret the definition of a "substantial small minority," and the tradition of the Dutch Parliament to respect the wishes of that small minority when it wanted law proposals declared controversial.

SP Member of Parliament (MP) Ronald van Raak referred to that tradition as "unwritten constitutional law," and asked his fellow committee members to give their views on this tradition. Colleague Hero Brinkman (PVV) asked the

Committee members to give the wishes of the substantial minority fair consideration. Van Raak said it was a "matter of respect" for the minority, and especially for the new Parliament, and that he would surely object to voting on the BES law package Thursday. The call by SP and PVV to hold off on the laws fell on deaf ears. The parties had hoped to get support from MP Johan Remkes (VVD) on this issue. But Remkes too agreed with the majority to handle the BES laws. He said that if Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten managed to get the law proposal to amend the Dutch Constitution – needed to establish the new status of the BES islands as public entities – to Parliament in time, he had no objections in principle to handling the first package of BES laws.

The other parties on Tuesday shared the same view on the BES laws: to proceed with the handling. Representatives of the Christian Democratic Party CDA, Labour Party PvdA, Christian Union (CU) and the green left party GroenLinks all said that the BES law proposals had been amply discussed by NAAZ, and as such, they were ready for plenary handling. "We have been talking constitutional reform for several years. It is of great importance that the process continues. We have to shoulder our responsibility. We should

not use the cabinet's crisis to stagnate the process. It would be a good signal from our side if we continued with this post haste," said MP Ineke van Gent of GroenLinks.

Van Raak (SP) said continuing with the BES legislation was like "keeping the front of the car stationary while the back of the car continued driving." He said that delaying the handling of the BES laws "wouldn't speed up the process by a second." Brinkman (PVV) agreed: "Why the haste? 10-10-10 is past tense."

Brinkman also made use of the opportunity to remind his colleagues that elections were coming on June 9, and warned that if Parliament approved the BES laws, the Dutch voter would punish them in the elections for "pushing through" this legislation.

During a plenary session earlier Tuesday, Brinkman, supported by Van Raak, tried to have the BES laws removed from Thursday's agenda. He argued that the plenary handling had been scheduled ahead of a decision to be made by NAAZ. However, a majority in Parliament rejected his request.

CDA, PvdA, CU and GroenLinks made a case during Tuesday's NAAZ meeting to proceed with the Kingdom Consensus laws. Together, the parties represent 87 seats in Parliament. SP, PVV and VVD, good for 56 seats, wanted the

laws declared controversial. Chairman Van Beek said this meant there was a majority to continue the process.

Remkes (VVD) said chances were "very slim" that all Kingdom Consensus laws, including the law proposal to amend the Charter, could be handled before the June 9 elections, and that not all laws were even at the Second Chamber yet. He remarked that the Second Chamber had never committed to the target date of October 10, 2010, to dismantle the Country the Netherlands Antilles. Brinkman wondered what the rush was, when not all laws could be handled by the current Parliament anyway.

MP Bas Jan van Bochove (CDA) said Parliament should continue with the laws that were ready, even if it meant handling some laws before and some after the elections. "We say an agreement is an agreement. We have to guarantee the continuity and complete the trajectory," said MP John Leerdam (PvdA). "We don't see why this should be declared controversial," said MP Cynthia Ortega-Martijn (CU).

The NAAZ Committee agreed to definitely cancel its visit to Curaçao and St. Maarten early next week to meet with the Island Councils. CDA, PvdA and CU were in favour of going, but put aside their wishes to accommodate the other parties. □





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## All eyes on far-right Geert Wilders as Dutch go to the polls

*Anti-Muslim populist hopes to establish Freedom party at local government level for first time as general election looms*

The Dutch went to the polls on Wednesday to elect local authorities in a ballot seen as a gauge of the national mood and the strength of the far right, 10 days after the government collapsed and three months before national elections.

With almost 400 local authorities being elected, the focus was on only two, the votes in the capital The Hague and the central town of Almere, because of the campaign by the anti-Muslim populist Geert Wilders to establish his Freedom party in local government for the first time.

Wilders, who likens the Qur'an to Hitler's Mein Kampf and wants Muslim immigrants deported, is bidding fair to win the general election in June, with the latest opinion polls giving him 27 of the 150 seats in The Netherlands' highly fragmented political scene.

The maverick rightwinger is expected at the House of Lords on Friday on an invitation from the UK Independence Party for a screening of his incendiary anti-Islamic film, Fitna, after the Home Office barred him from entering Britain last year, a ban that was rescinded.

Today the town halls in The Hague and Almere were under heavy security because of the tension fanned by the Freedom party campaign. In both towns and elsewhere scores of men and women turned up to vote wearing headscarves, in an ironic protest against Wilders's demand for a tax on Muslim headgear and for the wearing of headscarves to be banned in

all public buildings.

His Freedom party is running for only two local authorities because of a lack of resources and candidates.

While local elections in Holland are usually a subdued affair focused on issues such as cycle paths and rubbish collection, today's poll was dominated by immigration and Afghanistan.

The coalition government of Christian and social democrats fell 10 days ago because the Labour party, led by Wouter Bos, the finance minister, refused to extend the presence of 2,000 Dutch troops in Afghanistan who are to be withdrawn from August. It was the first Nato government to fall because of the war and the collapse looks likely to end the career of Jan Peter Balkenende, the Christian Democrat prime minister in office for eight years. The Afghan pullout is popular and Labour has risen in the polls as a result. But Wilders appears to be the biggest beneficiary of the political disarray.

Voter turnout in The Hague and Almere was several points up on four years ago, suggesting the Freedom party could do well. In Almere, a new town in central Holland with a population of nearly 200,000 and hardly any immigrants, Wilders's party was being tipped to win. In The Hague the contest was more even, with Labour and liberals also expected to do well. In European elections last summer the Freedom party came second, trouncing



Geert Wilders arrives at Heathrow airport last year after winning a court battle to enter the UK. Photograph: Steve Parsons/PA

Labour in its heartland cities of the western and northern coasts.

A Wilders win in the Dutch capital would be a sensation.

Polls predict he could triple his vote at the general election.

Several centre and leftwing parties have erected a cordon sanitaire around Wilders,

vowing not to coalesce with him in government. But the Christian Democrats and some rightwing liberals are hedging their bets. □

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## \*\*\* HUMAN HINTS \*\*\*

### Impulse Power 2

Yesterday, we discussed the concept of an impulse force, and concluded that three dimensional matter, including the human body, is made up of impulse forces transformed by light.

From the time perspective of a human life, the impulse of a hammer hitting a nail is instantaneous. If we slow time, we can examine each stage of the interaction between hammer and nail. In slow motion, the hammer barely touches the nail, then puts increasingly

more pressure on it. As the pressure increases, so does the heat. When the pressure is sufficient, the nail begins to move. Throughout the interaction, the momentum of the hammer is changing direction, based on the different forces encountered while the pressure is increasing.

Now see your entire life, from beginning to end, as an instant in time. Now, from our present human perspective, we have slowed the instant impulse of our

entire lives, so that we can experience every nuance and phase of the impulse force of our life. As we experience the impulse, we also change and redirect the momentum of our lives, in real time. This is a perfect feedback loop, with a built-in necessary safety-regulator of the time delay for three dimensional manifestation.

Matter is made up of the impulse forces of our consciousness, transformed by light. A human life can be thought of as an impulse force, transformed not by light, but by human consciousness. Each of us are transforming the impulse force of a human life, while it is happening. Our spirits are consciously directing and experiencing an impulse force while it is happening. That is a human life.

Our consciousness directs the

impulse of our lives, based on our thoughts, actions, and logic/emotional balance. Our attitudes direct our lives.

Up until now, we have been allowing life to direct us. We have allowed external forces to fill our lives with negative energies, images, emotions. We then become ensnared in a negative reinforcement loop, where the energies that bombard us confirm our belief in them.

Now is the time to become conscious that we are creating our own lives, based on our thoughts and intentions. Imagine the power we hold, being able to experience and alter an impulse force in real-time.

When faced with daily trials, remember that each decision changes and directs the impulse force of your life. Each decision represents


a dynamic moment in the dynamic process of our lives. When something is dynamic, a tiny, seemingly meaningless change can have huge effects, so it is important to weigh every decision carefully, and be clear on your intent. Think of everyone the decision will effect, and consider the possible consequences of your decisions, on your self and others. When moral issues become complicated, focus on your intent.

Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

### ~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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**PALM BEACH** – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

**Restaurant**  
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Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11 pm  
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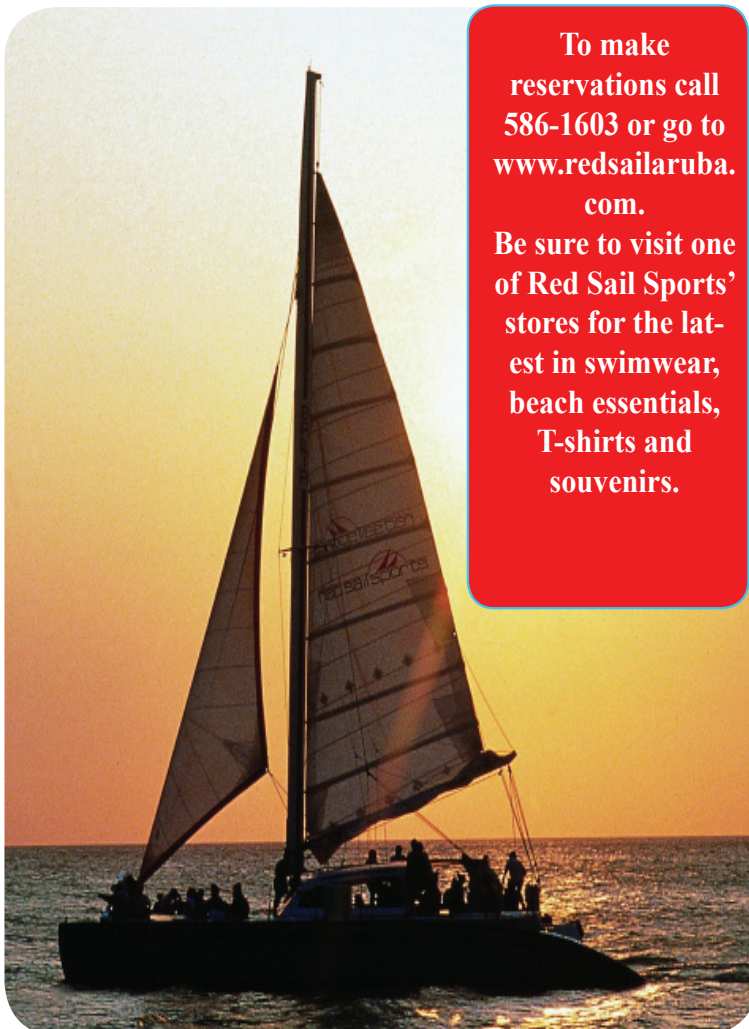


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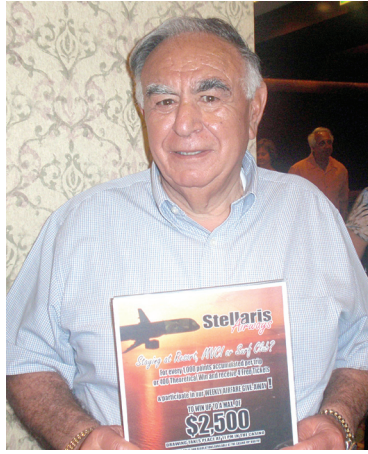
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## Stellar Winners At The Stellaris Casino

## New Promotion Spring King Cash Started March 1st



PALM BEACH – February was an exciting month for the Stellaris Casino guests. With many promotions in place, the casino was jam packed during the carnival month. From January 29th till February 26th the largest casino in Aruba launched the special promotion “Stellar”, where guests had the chance to win a total of afl. 10,000 in cash prizes. For every 20 points accumulated on slots machines and 25 points earned on the table games, casino guests received one ticket.

On February 26th the casino allured a large crowd of anxious guests waiting to see

if their name would be picked out of the tombola. On the hour from 9:30 pm until 12:30 am, casino management picked 5 names. A total of 20 lucky winners won a cash amount varying from afl.

100 up to afl. 1,000. Mr. Dominico Croes was the big winner taking home the afl. 1,000 prize.

During the last weekend in February, the Stellaris Casino announced the Bingo Hot Shot of the month. Casino management picked loyal casino visitor Ms. Ana Milena Mejia from the raffle drum and crowned her as the Bingo Hot Shot of February. This entitled her

spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy

take place Friday March 26th 2010 starting at 8 pm.

For more information on Aruba’s largest casino and the Stellaris upcoming promotions can be obtained at the Stellaris VIP Desk or online at [www.stellariscasino.com](http://www.stellariscasino.com).

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most



to \$500 in cash, a dinner for two at Marriott’s Champions Sports Bar & Restaurant and two free bingo cards for the month of March. In addition, a total of afl. 2,385 was won and divided among 7 bingo winners.

The weekly “Airways promotion” in February was won by Marriott guests Ms. Mannino, Mr. Fassio and Mr. Giacalone, who all received the amount of \$2,500 cash. Mr. Flowers received the entire airfare of \$1,753 for the trip to Aruba in cash. Entering for the promotion is only possible for Marriott’s hotel guests and timeshare owners who earned at least 1,000 points on the slot machines in one week. Every week guests have a renewed chance to win by accumulation points on their Preferred Players Card from Friday to Thursday. The raffle can only take place if a minimum of 15 loyal players entered their raffle tickets for the promotion.

Stellaris Casino newest promotion “Spring King Cash” launched March 1st

2010. For this promotion casino guests have a chance to win up to afl. 15,000 in cash prizes. The promotion allows players with a players’ card to receive one ticket for every 20 points accumulated on slot machines and 25 points earned on the table games. Casino guests without a players’ card can sign up for free at the casino VIP desk. The final drawing for the “Spring King Cash” will

health club offer entertaining diversions. Luxury hotel-within-a-hotel Tradewinds Club is the newest addition to this beachfront resort. Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico – Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and St. Thomas. □



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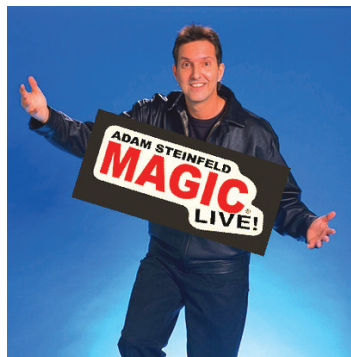
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# MAGIC Live!. Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1

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PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world.

I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



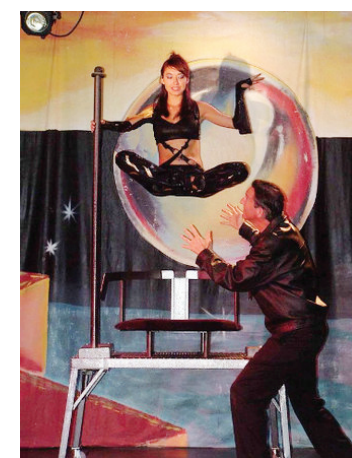
and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



## IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show  
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)  
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld  
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm  
Tickets: at the door  
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website: [www.MagicLive.com](http://www.MagicLive.com)  
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From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

*The authentic local seafood restaurant.*

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



### Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

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*"Dinner is almost ready..."*

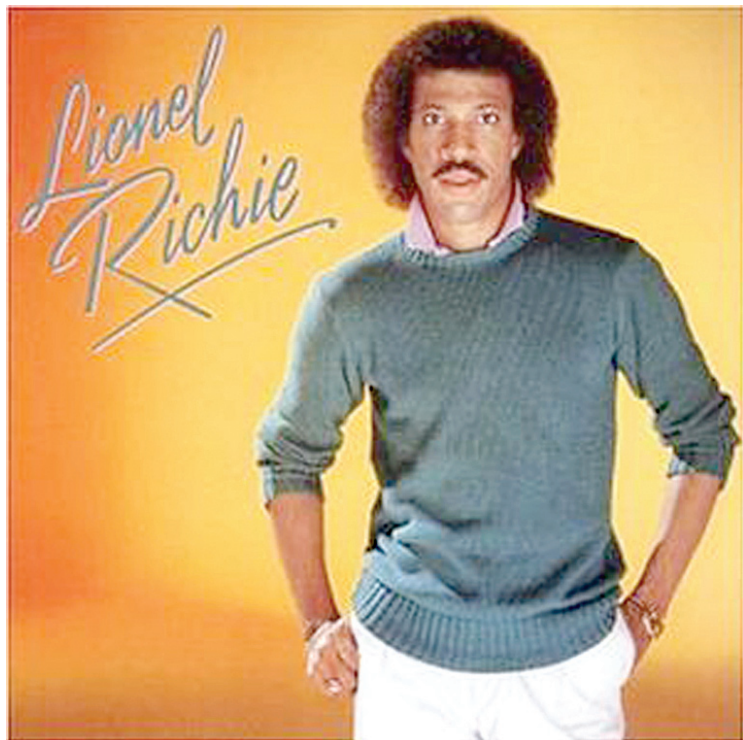
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**Appetizer - Entree - Dessert**

**\$24**  
per person



# Global Superstar Lionel Richie Joins John Legend to Headline the Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival 2010

*Curaçao Hoteliers Offer Special North Sea Jazz Festival Packages*



WILLEMSTAD, Curaçao - Grammy winning singer songwriter Lionel Richie will join John Legend as a headliner at the first ever Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival, September 3-4th, 2010. Richie is a highly anticipated addition to the program, drawing more excitement and buzz around the first ever jazz event. Richie is joined by bassist Richard Bona as well as other international acts. The Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival will be held in the World Trade Center Curaçao, but will also include a number of exciting, vibrant and energetic jazz concerts all over the island a full week before the festival.

“The addition of superstar Lionel Richie to the lineup heightens the profile and cache of the North Sea Jazz Festival and will entice more travelers and music lovers to visit the hidden treasure of Curaçao,” commented Brenda Benjamin, Director of Marketing, and Curaçao Tourist Board. “With hoteliers offering special package deals to cater to every type of jazz-loving traveler attending the North Sea Jazz Festival, we are poised for a tremendously successful and unprecedented music event in Curaçao.”

Whether you are a diver, a foodie, or a general jazz lover, Curacao has the perfect package for you. Many of the island’s hotels are putting together special package deals

for The Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival.

The Kura Hulanda North Sea Jazz Festival Package, good from September 1-10, 2010, offers guests a fourth night free, after staying three nights, with a complimentary buffet breakfast at the Astrolab Observatory Restaurant, as well as a complimentary scheduled shuttle service to all Festival events to the World Trade Center, the venue for the Festival. The package also includes daily complimentary shuttle service to the nearby Beach Club and Lodge Kura Hulanda and Beach Club. Prices start at \$860 for four nights, based on double occupancy and inclusive of all taxes and service charges. The Hotel Kura Hulanda Spa & Casino is a Small Luxury Hotel of the World. To book or for more information, please visit [www.kurahulanda.com](http://www.kurahulanda.com).

Diving aficionados will want to stay at the Atlantis Diving & Apartments where they can dive all day and then enjoy jazz all night. Atlantis Apartments is offering a special from September 1-7th where guests receive a seven night stay for the price of six and can experience unlimited shore diving at no extra charge! Rates start at \$679 for a one bedroom apartment, double occupancy. Rates for a two bedroom apartment, for four people start at \$935 per night. For more information

or to book please visit [www.atlantisapartments.net](http://www.atlantisapartments.net).

Divers coming to experience Curaçao’s dive paradise and North Sea Jazz Festival will be thrilled about dive operator Downtown Diving’s special rate of one guided dive for \$45 including dive gear and two guided dives including dive gear for \$75, per person. Those looking to get PADI certified will be able to take an open-water course, complete with an open-water manual, logbook and dive equipment for \$300.

The Floris Suite Hotel is luring jazz-loving foodies with “Curacao North Sea Jazz Fine Dining Package” which includes a four night stay, along with a specialty welcome drink, daily champagne breakfast for two, and one dinner for two at the renowned hotel restaurant Sjalotte. Includes welcome drink, 5 course dinner, wines, water and coffee/tea. For more information or to book please visit [www.florissuitehotel.com](http://www.florissuitehotel.com).

For more information on Festival, venues, artists, schedule and ticket sales, please visit: [www.Curacaonorthseajazz.com](http://www.Curacaonorthseajazz.com).

## About Curaçao

Selected as one of the top 10 Destinations for 2010 by Bing.com, Curaçao – a UNESCO World Heritage site - boasts an eclectic mix of history and culture that welcomes visitors to this unique island paradise. With its pristine dive sites, secluded beaches, championship golf and rich local cuisine, Curaçao offers a little something for everyone – from the adventure traveler to those who simply want to unwind and enjoy its perfect climate. To learn more about the island of Curaçao visit [Curacao.com](http://Curacao.com). □



## BIOGRAPHY

### Early years

Born in Tuskegee, Alabama, Richie grew up on the campus of Tuskegee Institute. His grandfather’s house was across the street from the home of the president of the Institute. His family moved to Illinois where he graduated from Joliet Township High School, East Campus, in Joliet. A star tennis player in Joliet, he accepted a tennis scholarship back at Tuskegee Institute and later graduated with a major in economics. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Tuskegee, Richie briefly attended graduate school at Auburn University. Lionel is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

### The Commodores

Back as a student in Tuskegee, he formed a succession of R&B groups in the mid-1960s. In 1968 he became the lead singer and saxophonist with the Commodores. They signed a recording contract with Atlantic Records in 1968 for one record before moving on to Motown Records, being schooled as a support act to the Jackson Five. The Commodores became established as a popular soul group. Their first several albums had a danceable, funky sound with such tracks as “Machine Gun” and “Brick House”. Over time, Richie wrote and sang more romantic, easy-listening ballads such as “Easy”, “Three Times a Lady” and “Still” and the tragic break-up ballad, “Sail On.”

By the late 1970s he had begun to accept songwriting commissions from other artists. He composed “Lady” for Kenny Rogers, which hit #1 in 1980, and he produced Rogers’ Share Your Love album the following year. Richie and Rogers have maintained a strong friendship in later years. Also in 1981, Richie sang a duet with Diana Ross in the theme song for the film Endless Love. Issued as a single, the song topped the UK and U.S. pop music charts, and it became one of Motown’s biggest hits. Its success encouraged Richie to branch out into a full-fledged solo career in 1982. He was replaced by Skyler Jett, who became the lead singer for The Commodores in 1983.

His debut album, Lionel Richie, produced another chart-topping single, “Truly”, which continued the style of his ballads with the Commodores.

### Solo career

He released his self-titled debut in 1982, which contained three hit singles: the huge U.S. #1 song “Truly” that launched his career as one of the most successful balladeers of the 1980s. Other U.S. Top Five hits “You Are” and “My Love”. The album hit #3 on the music charts and sold over 4 million copies. His 1983 follow up album, Can’t Slow Down, sold over twice as many copies and won two Grammy Awards including Album Of The Year – propelling him into the first rank of international superstars. The album spawned the #1 hit “All Night Long”, a Caribbean-flavored dance number that was promoted by a colorful music video produced by former Monkee, Michael Nesmith.

Several more Top 10 hits followed, the most successful of which was the ballad “Hello” (1984), a sentimental lode “Se La” (U.S. #20), The latter is Richie’s most recent U.S. Pop Top Twenty hit. The title selection, which revived the lively dance sound of “All Night Long (All Night)”, was accompanied by another striking video, a feature that played an increasingly important role in Richie’s solo career. In 1985, Richie collaborated with Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder on the USA For Africa “We are the World” project.[1] By 1987, Richie was exhausted from his work schedule and after a controversial year laid low taking care for his father in Alabama. His father, Lionel Sr., died in 1990. He made his return to recording and performing following the release of his first greatest-hits collection, Back to Front, in 1992.

Since then, his ever-more relaxed schedule has kept his recording and live work to a minimum. He broke the silence in 1996 with Louder Than Words, on which he resisted any change of style or the musical fashion-hopping of the past decade. Instead, he stayed with his chosen path of well-crafted soul music, which in the intervening years has become known as Contemporary R&B.

His albums in the 1990s such as Louder Than Words and Time all failed to achieve the previous decade’s commercial success. Some of his recent work such as the album Renaissance has returned to his older style, achieving success in Europe, but only modest notice in the United States. Since 2004, he has produced a total of six Top 40 singles in the UK. On February 1st, 2010 Lionel made a remix of the We Are The World in which Justin Bieber sings his original part in the song. □



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## Richardson, Labega rip Ferron for regatta contribution remarks

PHILIPSBURG--Tourism Commissioner Frans Richardson and St. Maarten Tourism Bureau Head Regina Labega ripped into Heineken Regatta Steering Committee Chairman Robbie Ferron for his comments regarding Government's contribution to the regatta on Tuesday. Both Richardson and Labega lamented that Ferron would insult the people of St. Maarten, as well as the civil servants who worked annually to prepare all documentation and contributions from the Island Government to the regatta organisers.

They pointed out that Ferron gave the impression that Government was reducing its annual contribution to the regatta and related activities. On the contrary, they explained, Government's contribution had actually increased to Naf. 236,842 or US \$131,578 for 2010. Furthermore, Government approved Naf. 189,000 for the regatta and agreed to release Naf. 162,000.

The balance would be paid to regatta organisers pending the outcome of the 2010 Financial Statements of St. Maarten Yacht Club (Heineken Regatta organiser), due by the end of June 2010. Robbie Ferron agreed to this proposal during a meeting between Heineken Regatta and St. Maarten Tourist Bureau on February 16.

The Commissioner said that, even though the Island Government had contributed more than a million guilders over the last five years to the regatta, Ferron "had the gall" to question Government's commitment to the regatta. "On top of that, we basically had to beg the regatta organisers to bring the regatta back to Philipsburg so all of our people and businesses can benefit. They didn't want to do it; we absorbed that cost as well," he said. He continued: "We are spending much more money than we normally do. With

the financial regulations that Government has to abide by, a partner like the regatta should be more understanding. I also gave instructions not to close that budget, as additional cost could be incurred, and Government might have to assist."

Richardson said his obligation, and that of the Tourist Bureau, was to market St. Maarten 365 days a year, "not just the four days of the Heineken Regatta. It is sad that one individual only thinks of himself and the event, but the people of St. Maarten expect their government to work for all of St. Maarten," he said.

In that context, he mentioned that Carnival, the island's premier cultural event, was two weeks long and currently received less than the regatta. "So what are we supposed to tell the organisers of Carnival? It would actually be nice to see regatta and carnival organisers come together to organise those events together, for all people. Government is in a position where it has to help everyone. But this criticism from Ferron was unfounded, because we've gone above and beyond for them," he said.



Richardson went on to mention that Government was hosting media from every market to cover the event, a filming crew and more. "But considering Ferron's statements, I believe we will be looking more closely at this structure," he said. Labega echoed most of the Commissioner's statements, but specifically took issue with



Ferron's statement that no one in the civil service understood the marine industry. This statement, she said, did not surprise her. "I will state again, there is no one in the Sector Economy and Tourism that fits his demographic profile," she said. "Currently, Lisa Noel of the Product Development

Division, holding a Master's Degree in Tourism, sits on his committee, however, she still does not know anything, or cannot learn anything about the marine industry. Think about it, if after 30 years there is still a lack of understanding of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, then I'm sorry, it has a real problem," Labega added. □

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# Budget woes

The problems regarding this year's budget have reached a stage where decisive action no longer can be postponed. The Committee for Financial Supervision CFT has decided to notify the Kingdom Government that St. Maarten has no 2010 budget and to advise it to issue a decree instructing the Executive Council to have an approved budget that complies with all the norms and regulations by the third week of March.

Not only that, but the CFT wants Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman (NA) to revisit the draft he submitted and present a "new," balanced budget. This budget should not take into account the transfer of Central Government tasks to the Island Territory that is to become an autonomous country in the Dutch Kingdom – as Blackman had insisted on – because there is no firm agreement on the financing thereof and the budget can always be amended later.

If the Kingdom Council of Ministers follows the advice to set a deadline, as can be expected, it should not be taken lightly. Also in light of the need for continued cooperation from the Dutch Government regarding the constitutional changes and accompanying debt relief, every effort must now be made to comply with the CFT demands.

That will take some doing, no doubt, but well into the

third month of the year there is simply no more room for delay or excuses. If St. Maarten cannot come up with a budget considered appropriate, one can be imposed and then probably would include financial measures already mentioned by the CFT, such as eliminating cost-of-living adjustments for the public sector and on subsidies to third parties, increasing the turnover tax, a gasoline excise tax hike, an excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products, or a casino tax.

Some have argued that these measures, some of which might have a negative economic impact, actually should not be necessary to balance the budget if the Island Territory does not take on too many extra financial obligations to prepare for its future status. As the CFT does not want the transfer of tasks to be part of the budget, it ought to be possible in any case to bring down the projected deficit considerably by focussing only on the current earnings and expenditures of the Island Territory.

After all, the public has always been told that St. Maarten is perfectly able to stand on its own feet, as it generates enough income. If there was no deficit in last year's budget approved by the same CFT, and if the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles is taken out of the equation as instructed, presenting a balanced budget should not be all that difficult, even though time is fast running out. □

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# Chávez no dará explicación a España por ETA y FARC

CARACAS (Reuters) - El presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez, dijo el miércoles que no tiene que dar explicaciones a España, ni a nadie, ante las acusaciones sobre supuestos nexos de su Gobierno con el grupo separatista vasco ETA y las guerrillas colombianas FARC.

El Gobierno de José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero solicitó explicaciones a Venezuela luego de que un juez español dijera el lunes que Caracas habría facilitado contactos entre ambos grupos armados, considerados terroristas por Estados Unidos y la Unión Europea, para atentar contra altos funcionarios colombianos en España.

“Yo, Zapatero, no tengo nada que explicar compañero, nada. Si usted quiere, pídale explicación a ese juez irresponsable de tu país”, dijo el mandatario en cadena nacional de radio y televisión. “No tengo nada que explicarle a Zapatero, ni a nadie en este planeta (...) más bien el Jefe del Gobierno español y el Rey de España deberían meter el ojo a su Poder Judicial”, agregó el líder socialista. Durante sus 11 años en el poder, Chávez ha sido recurrentemente acusado de simpatizar e incluso cooperar con las FARC, con las que comparte una ideología marxista, así como otras fuerzas irregulares como el libanés Hezbollah. Estas denuncias se intensificaron tras la



**Imagen de archivo del presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, en el congreso de Montevideo. Marzo 1 2010. El presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez, dijo el miércoles que no tiene que dar explicaciones a España, ni a nadie, sobre acusaciones de que su Gobierno ha tenido nexos con el grupo separatista armado ETA y las guerrillas colombianas FARC. REUTERS/Pablo Bielli**

incautación por parte del Gobierno colombiano de un computador en una incursión en territorio ecuatoriano en el 2008, en el que supuestamente existirían pruebas sobre la relación entre las FARC y Chávez.

El mandatario siempre ha negado estas acusaciones y las vincula a una campaña promovida por Washington para desprestigiar su “revolución bolivariana”, asegurando que los datos obtenidos en ese equipo, que habría pertenecido al líder

rebelde Raúl Reyes, fueron manipulados por Bogotá.

“Este es un Gobierno que no apoya a ningún movimiento terrorista, ni apoyará. Lo nuestro es la paz, la amistad”, aseveró mientras encabezaba un acto de vacunación masiva en una barriada pobre de la capital venezolana.

Sin embargo, Chávez ha alimentado estos señalamientos honrando en público la memoria de destacados guerrilleros caídos en combate, pidiendo el estatus de beligerancia para

las FARC y permitiendo la inauguración en Caracas de una estatua en memoria de Manuel Marulanda “Tirofijo”, el legendario dirigente de las FARC fallecido en el 2008.

Un auto del juez de la Asamblea Nacional Eloy Velasco señaló que en estos encuentros, uno de ellos

en el 2007, los insurgentes colombianos habrían pedido apoyo logístico al grupo vasco para atentar contra altos cargos colombianos de visita en España, como el presidente Alvaro Uribe.

Velasco pidió el arresto de 13 personas vinculadas a las FARC y ETA, incluyendo un ciudadano de origen español que trabaja para el Gobierno venezolano, basándose en información obtenida en el computador de Reyes, quien fue número dos de las FARC hasta su muerte en el 2008.

Chávez dijo que habló con el canciller español, Miguel Angel Moratinos, quien le habría explicado que el Gobierno de Zapatero no tiene nada que ver con la acusación.

Las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) han matado a miles de personas en décadas de lucha armada para hacerse con el poder en el país cafetalero, principal productor mundial de cocaína.

Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA), que significa País Vasco y Libertad en euskera, ha asesinado a casi un millar de personas en su lucha por la independencia de España desde hace más de 30 años. □

## Firma de Dinamarca ofrece modernizar principal puerto de Perú

LIMA (Reuters) - APM Terminals, del grupo danés A.P.Moller-Maersk, ofreció al Gobierno peruano una inversión de hasta 1.900 millones de dólares para modernizar el terminal norte del principal puerto del país, El Callao, informó el miércoles un ejecutivo de la compañía.

El monto incluye la construcción de cuatro muelles especializados, el reemplazo de equipos y grúas del puerto, así como los costos y pagos al Gobierno en un lapso de 30 años.

“Es una iniciativa privada que hemos presentado hace dos semanas y que está en las manos de APN (Autoridad Portuaria Nacional) y del Gobierno de Perú”, dijo el

gerente de Inversión y Proyectos de APM Terminals Latinoamérica, Robert Bosman.

“Nuestra oferta es una propuesta seria, que ofrece un terminal marítimo en el nivel más alto del mundo y ofrece un terminal multipropósito con cuatro muelles especializados que tiene una solución para el terminal del Callao”, agregó Bosman en conversación telefónica con Reuters.

Las autoridades peruanas responderían en un plazo de 60 días la oferta de APM Terminals, según fuentes del Gobierno.

El puerto del Callao es el mayor del país y la principal entrada y salida de las importaciones y exportaciones de la nación sudamericana, un gran productor de materias primas. □

## Fuertes réplicas remecen centro y sur de Chile

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - Dos fuertes réplicas de magnitud 5,9 y 6,0 remecieron el miércoles con diferencia de segundos a la zona centro sur de Chile, la más golpeada por uno de los peores terremotos de la historia y tsunamis cuatro días antes.

El Servicio Geológico de Estados Unidos (USGS por su sigla en inglés) reportó los movimientos telúricos a las 17.44 GMT, el primero con epicentro en la región del Bío Bío a una profundidad de 35 kilómetros y el segundo en la región del Maule a una profundidad de 33 kilómetros. El informe inicial del USGS señaló una magnitud de 6,3 para la primera réplica.

“La gente en las carpas de Dichato lo sintió fuerte, fuerte”, dijo un testigo de Reuters desde esa ciudad costera vecina a Concepción, el segundo mayor centro urbano de Chile cercano al epicentro del sismo del sábado que dejó al menos 800 muertos. La Oficina Nacional de Emergencia de Chile (ONEMI) descartó minutos después una alerta de tsunami para la zona, aunque el testigo de Reuters contó que las personas en el lugar huyeron hacia las montañas y que la policía y los militares no permitían que vuelvan a bajar a la costa. □



# Jefe de armada chilena reconoce error en no alertar por tsunami

*Hasta ahora los muertos son 799, y cantidad de víctimas no cuantificadas*

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - La armada reconoció que su servicio oceanográfico no alertó claramente a la presidenta Michelle Bachelet de la inminencia del tsunami posterior al terremoto del sábado que abatió poblados y puertos chilenos dejando hasta ahora 799 muertos y una cantidad de víctimas aún no totalmente cuantificadas.

El jefe de la armada, almirante Edmundo González, en declaraciones a la televisión estatal el martes en la noche, dijo que “la Presidenta llamó para ver si se mantenía la alerta. Nosotros fuimos poco claros en la información que le entregamos”, reconoció el almirante González.

La armada sólo informó cuatro horas después de ocurrido el terremoto que pudiera haberse registrado un posterior tsunami, cuyas olas se abalanzaron sobre numerosas poblaciones costeras a partir de media hora después del devastador sismo, a las 03:34 hora local (06:34 gmt) del sábado 27 de febrero. La información errónea entregada por el Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico (Shoa) de la armada a la presidenta la llevó a suponer que el tsunami había sido descartado.

Sin embargo, a esa misma hora ya se había producido la llegada de olas gigantes en diversos puntos del océano Pacífico, afectando a zonas costeras de dos regiones al sur de esta capital.

“La presidenta llamó al Shoa como a las 05.15 para ver si mantenía la alerta que habíamos dado hace aproximadamente una hora y diez minutos atrás. Fuimos poco claros en la información que le entregamos, no fuimos lo suficientemente precisos para decir a la Presidenta (que) se mantiene o se cancela (la alerta).

Hubo titubeo por parte nuestra”, agregó González en sus declaraciones a la televisión estatal.

La Oficina Nacional de Emergencia (Onemi) informó en la mañana del miércoles que hasta ahora 799 personas murieron. El domingo, el ministro de Defensa, Francisco Vidal, ya había anticipado el



error al informar después de una reunión de emergencia de Bachelet con sus ministros, al decir “la verdad, aunque duela: lo que se dió en la costa es un maremoto aquí” o en cualquier parte.

El almirante González insistió en la entrevista televisiva que el Shoa había alertado del tsunami a la (Onemi) del gobierno. Dijo que por lo tanto, admite “una responsabilidad compartida” por las muertes que causó el tsunami.

## TSUNAMI

El tsunami arrasó numerosas localidades costeras y cientos de personas se encuentran desaparecidas. Durante todos estos días, los familiares

hacen llamados por las radios y la televisión en busca de sus familiares desaparecidos.

El gobierno ha evitado criticar a la armada y ha señalado que no es el momento de buscar responsables por los posibles actos de negligencia, según dijo el ministro del Interior, Edmundo Pérez Yoma.

El presidente electo Sebastián Piñera, quien asume el 11 de marzo, deslizó una nueva crítica al gobierno saliente al expresar que por la gran magnitud del sismo 8,8 “había un grave peligro de tsunami. Lo que un gobierno debe hacer es anticiparse a los problemas”.

El jefe del estado mayor de la defensa nacional, general de ejército Cristián Le Dantec,

evitó criticar abiertamente a la armada, pero reconoció a la prensa que la alarma era por una marejada fuerte, que el gobierno transmitió. “Efectivamente, nunca dijeron: ahí viene un maremoto”, aclaró.

El jefe de la fuerza aérea, general Ricardo Ortega, también deslizó una crítica a las autoridades al sostener que dos horas después del terremoto tenían dispuesto aviones para trasladar ayuda, pero no recibió la orden de las autoridades civiles.

Opositores al gobierno lo han criticado por no decretar inmediatamente el sábado el estado de catástrofe y la designación de jefes militares a

cargo de la seguridad pública, lo que según ellos, habría evitado el pillaje desatado ese día en Concepción, la segunda ciudad de Chile más cerca del epicentro del terremoto.

El gobierno decretó el estado de catástrofe el domingo y los jefes militares han ordenado amplios toques de queda, que en Concepción, 500 kilómetros al sur de la capital, se extendió el martes desde las 18:00 horas hasta el mediodía del miércoles.

En Concepción, la autoridad militar informó que 35 personas fueron detenidas la noche del martes y la madrugada de este miércoles por infringir el toque de queda, informó la radio Cooperativa.

En tanto, el gobierno comenzó a recibir la ayuda internacional solicitada, como hospitales de campaña, equipos purificadores de agua, teléfonos satelitales que le fueron entregados por los presidentes brasileño, peruano y boliviano y la secretaria de estado estadounidense en un breve pso por el aeropuerto de Santiago.

## NO HAY DESABASTECIMIENTO POR TERREMOTO

La presidenta de Chile, Michelle Bachelet, aseguró el miércoles que el país no enfrenta desabastecimiento luego del potente terremoto y tsunamis que lo afectaron el fin de semana causando al menos 800 muertos. El terremoto de magnitud 8,8 derrumbó el sábado casas y edificios en la zona centro y sur del país, y los tsunamis que lo siguieron arrasaron con localidades costeras.

“Aquí no hay desabastecimiento”, afirmó Bachelet en una declaración desde el palacio presidencial de La Moneda. “Hay suficientes alimentos, por lo tanto hay que tener tranquilidad (...) lo mismo con combustibles”, agregó.

Bachelet envió 14.000 soldados para restablecer el control en la zona más afectada por el sismo, luego de que en Concepción, la segunda ciudad más importante del país y una de las más dañadas, hordas saquearon supermercados, comercios y casas. □





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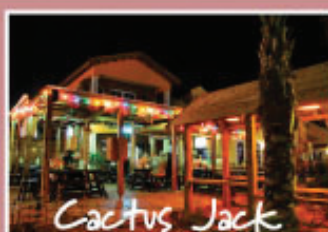


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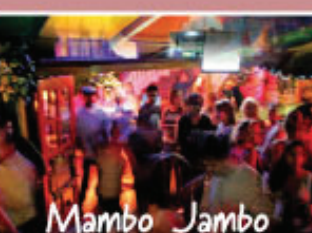
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